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THE TIMES

No. 64,542 FRIDAY JANUARY 15 1993 45p



Heading for sea: relatives of sailors and well-wishers waving goodbye as the Ark Royal left Portsmouth yesterday. Six warships and eight Sea Harriers will also go to reinforce the British operation

Ark Royal sets sail for the Adriatic

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE aircraft carrier Ark Royal left Portsmouth yesterday on route for the Adriatic as the spearhead of a huge British reinforcement of its humanitarian operations in Bosnia.

In a move doubling to 5,000 the number of British military personnel serving in the Balkans, John Major's cabinet approved the defence ministry's plans for a Balkans task force of 2,500 servicemen, six warships, eight Sea Harriers and 11 Sea King helicopters plus artillery support.

The deployment came amid mounting concern among ministers and Conservative MPs about the safety of the 2,500 British troops in Bosnia guarding United Nations relief operations after the first British soldier was killed on Wednesday and last week's shelling by Serb guns of a British logistics base.

A number of senior Tory MPs warned Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, that they would not support the government if the extra troops were to be used in an offensive role. Mr Rifkind sought to reassure them that the extra forces would not be ordered to play an active role in the fighting between the warring Serb, Muslim and Croatian forces in Bosnia.

Peter Viggers, Tory MP for Gosport and former minister, asked for an assurance that the troops would be used only to distribute humanitarian aid. In a warning to Mr Rifkind, he added: "This cannot safely be done if it needs to be supported by air strikes and field artillery." Sir Peter Tapsell, another backbench Tory heavyweight, reminded the defence secretary that the United States presence in Vietnam had begun with 600 advisers and ended with 500,000 troops.

Saddam defiant as allies threaten further air strikes

FROM JAMIE DEITMER
IN WASHINGTON AND
CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

The Western allies yesterday hailed Wednesday night's strike against Iraqi military sites as a success, but only half the targets were destroyed and pressure on Saddam Hussein will be kept up

President Bush said that the allied air raid on southern Iraq on Wednesday had sent a "loud and clear" message. "I think the mission was a big success. Let's just hope that the message was received," he said. "However, Washington officials admitted that only about half the missile launchers and other targets were destroyed."

Senior aides of Bill Clinton, who have been in close contact with the Bush administration and the British embassy, reiterated their support for the attack on Iraq. They said that the president-elect would do whatever necessary, including ordering further bombing of Iraqi military positions, to make Saddam comply with UN resolutions.

Iraq carefully divided its response, confirming a climbdown over its ban on United Nations flights and a halt to scavenging raids into Kuwait, while maintaining its determination to resist violent Western-imposed no-fly zones. Diplomats in Baghdad said that Saddam hoped for a fresh start with Mr Clinton and was unlikely to escalate the conflict.

The Iraqi regime addressed its own people in fiery rhetoric, claiming, in the words of Qadisiyah, the defence ministry daily: "We shall go on confronting the allies, no matter how long it will take." State radio broadcast patriotic songs and poems.

Kuwait placed its armed forces on alert in case of Iraqi attack and 1,000 American troops from Fort Hood, Texas, prepared to fly to the emirate to support US forces stationed there and to deter Iraqi incursions into Kuwait. In Cyprus, security was tightened at British bases and extra security measures were taken at British, American and French embassies throughout the region.

At the same time as Iraq expressed defiance, Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister and Saddam's closest adviser on foreign affairs, confirmed the concession made an hour after the bombs began to fall by the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoon: "Iraq will stop the operation of retrieving property [from its former naval base at Umm Qasr] at the present time and until an understanding has been reached with UN observers over this subject."

Mr Aziz said in Baghdad: "Iraq will let UN planes fly on their own responsibility on a case-by-case basis." The first test of the concession is expected soon. Last night flight plans for another UN plane taking weapons inspectors to Iraq were submitted. A UN spokesman in Bahrain would not say for which day the flight was planned.

Britain's uncompromising line came as Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, briefed their cabinet colleagues on the allied bombardment. Mr Rifkind said that initial assessments showed that the strikes, involving six British planes, had been an "outstanding success". Mr Hurd said Saddam had been given a "message he cannot ignore".

John Major's officials said that the allies were prepared to renew their assaults. Saddam "must abide by the UN Security Council resolutions, and if he does not this will happen again".

Brooke promises new laws to protect privacy

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW criminal and civil laws to protect the privacy of individuals were heralded by the government last night in an immediate response to the Calcutt report on the conduct of the press.

Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, promised legislation to outlaw specified types of "physical intrusion and covert surveillance" after the cabinet yesterday examined the long-awaited 40,000-word document. If the government adopts the Calcutt formula, fines of up to £5,000 will be imposed on people who enter private property without authority to gain information with intent to publish; use surveillance or bugging devices to obtain such information; or employ long-range cameras or recording devices to pry on people.

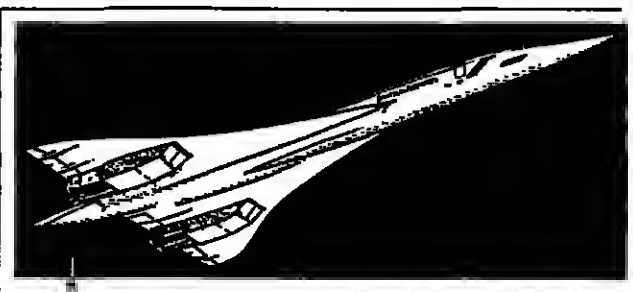
Mr Brooke said the offences were needed "to signal society's strong condemnation of this kind of behaviour and to deter similar instances in future". At the same time, the government will also seriously consider the introduction of a civil offence of infringement of privacy. People who feel their privacy has been wrongly violated would be able to seek compensation from newspapers and others.

During Commons exchanges, Mr Brooke made plain that the government will want to look at ways in which ordinary individuals can gain redress simply and without resort to expensive and possibly crippling High Court actions. Something along the lines of small claims courts may be looked at. The government is also to examine the law on telephone tapping to identify whether there are gaps that allow eavesdroppers to listen to private calls.

As expected, Mr Brooke effectively rejected Calcutt's central recommendation for a new statutory tribunal to regulate the press, although he accepted the case for reform of press self-regulation and invited public debate on the issue. He agreed with Sir David Calcutt, QC, that the Press Complaints Commission was not an effective regulator of the press at present. However, he said that a statutory body would be a "step of some constitutional significance, departing from the traditional approach to press regulation in this country" and that the government would be "extremely reluctant" to pursue that route.

In his own conclusion, Sir David admits: "I do not doubt that my recommendations will be met with claims that they will result in a censorship and gagging of the press, that they will prevent responsible investigative journalism, and that they will only serve as a shield for the wicked. Since the name of the late Mr Robert Maxwell may be on many lips, it will perhaps be as well also to remember that he was among the most ardent of advocates that the press should be left to regulate itself."

Analysis, pages 6-7
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Leading article, page 15



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Oxford mourns student found hanged

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE flag was flying half-mast at St Hilda's yesterday as Oxford mourned the apparent suicide of a second student in the city within three months.

Pamela Wray, 21, a modern languages finalist, was found hanging at her family home in Headington, Oxford, on Wednesday night by her father, John, a supply teacher, only hours before she was due to return to her studies at St Hilda's College for the start of the new term.

The tragedy will be a further blow to morale in the university, which is struggling to shake off the notoriety gained after a number of student deaths. Oxford is still in the middle of an official enquiry into the level of student suicide after Tracy Cole, a first-year English student at Lady Margaret Hall, was found dead in her room last October, apparently overwhelmed by the work that lay ahead.

Mr Wray yesterday described his daughter as "a very private person". Thames Valley police said that there were no suspicious circumstances and that Miss Wray appeared to have been suffering from depression. The inquiry will begin today.

Jane Taylor, dean of St Hilda's, said: "In her work, she was competent. There were no signs anything was wrong. Her tutors were astonished she should have felt this way. She was quiet, sensible and intelligent. She was a caring person and she herself would look after other students with problems."

Miss Wray obtained three A grades in her A levels at Nottingham High School for Girls in 1989 and was a devout Seventh Day Adventist who took an active part in care for the homeless and campaigns against racial discrimination.

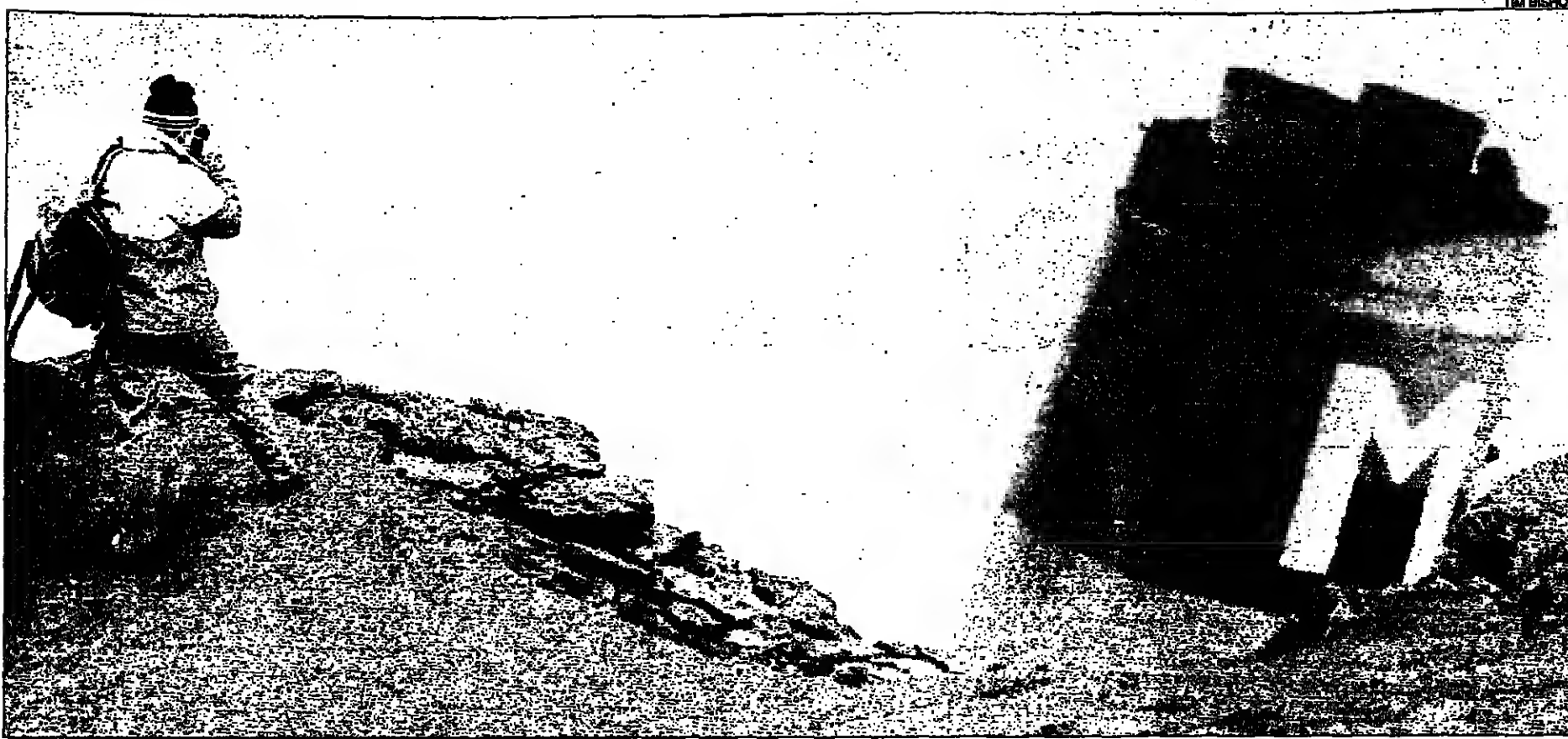
Dr Taylor said that she may have been apprehensive about her finals in May, but had usually been unperturbed by academic pressure. "Somebody said this morning, 'She is the only student I have ever known who has never had an essay crisis'. She made friends easily."

Students returning to St Hilda's, which may soon be the university's only single-sex college, were yesterday appalled by Miss Wray's death, less than two years after the murder of Rachel McLean, another St Hilda's undergraduate, who was strangled by her boyfriend in April 1991.

Lisa Anson, 21, president of the college's junior common room said: "We are extremely sad. We do not know why. She was a nice and gentle person."

Elsa Bell, who runs the university's

Raids aftermath, page 10
Leading article, page 15



Visitor centre: a sightseer looking down on the wreck of the oil tanker *Braer*, which could become a tourist attraction if plans being drawn up by the Shetland Islands Council are approved (Ray Clancy writes).

The proposals are still at an early stage and would need the approval of Shetland Islands Council. Maurice

Mullay, chief executive of the tourist board, said that there was no reason why "the positive aspects of the wreck should not be exploited".

Since the tourist board is already planning to make the oil terminal at Sullom Voe, in the north of the island, a staging point on a tourist route, the site of the wreck on the

southern end is seen as a natural addition. It could depend on whether the wreck, which is now in three pieces, remains on the rocky shore or whether the tides pull it into deep water. "If she did remain on site, then people would want to visit," Mr Mullay said.

Not all islanders agree with the

commercial exploitation of a wreck that almost brought ruin to Shetland. Tom Burgess, the farmer who owns the cliff-top overlooking the wreck, says that he will not put up with people tramping over his land.

John Johnston, who lives in Quendale Bay, said that the idea was a bad joke. "They will be cutting it up

and selling it off as souvenirs next," he said.

The council appears to be taking the idea with a pinch of salt. Malcolm Green, chief executive, said that Shetland already attracted plenty of tourists. "At the height of the season you often cannot get a bed. More tourists is not what we need."

Fireman drowns as engine hits bridge

A fireman died yesterday after being trapped under water in a fire engine which had crashed into a bridge and fallen 50ft down an embankment into the Tweed in the Scottish border town of Kelso.

Five other crewmen managed to escape onto the roof of the vehicle. Two were rescued by a rowing boat and three by a mobile crane sent to the scene by a local contractor. One was detained at the Borders general hospital, near Melrose, with a head injury. The others were released after treatment for hypothermia and shock.

The crew, part-time firemen living locally, were believed to be answering an emergency call at the time of the crash. Unconfirmed reports said the engine skidded on ice and went through a bridge parapet. The body of the dead man was recovered from inside the cab six hours after the crash.

Minister hails reform

Seventy pieces of proposed Euro-legislation have already been abandoned since European leaders agreed that the principle of subsidiarity should be applied to law-making in the Community at Maastricht in December 1991. The figure was disclosed yesterday by Tristram Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office minister of state, before the Commons foreign affairs select committee. Mr Garel-Jones, who has said he intends to leave government once he has steered the Maastricht Treaty through Parliament, said the "first fruits" of subsidiarity, the principle that decision making in Europe should be at the national government level whenever possible, were now being seen in Brussels.

Tests to go ahead

Baroness Blatch, the education minister, last night ruled out any postponement of next summer's English tests for 14-year-olds, despite threats of a boycott by growing numbers of teachers. All six teaching unions are consulting their members on action against the tests, which are due to be taken by 600,000 pupils next June. Hundreds of teachers of English are already committed to a boycott because they think that the tests have been implemented too quickly to be reliable. Lady Blatch told a Conservative party dinner in the House of Lords: "This information enables teachers and, indeed, parents to build on the strengths and to address the weaknesses of pupils."

Doubt on insulin claim

Strong evidence that genetically engineered human insulin is no more harmful than animal insulin has been found by scientists. The findings cast doubt on legal action being considered by some diabetics who claim they suffered unforeseen attacks of hypoglycaemia after being switched from animal insulin to the human form. Hypoglycaemia is a dangerously low blood-sugar level that can cause blackouts and coma. It is averted by taking sugar after the warning signs. The study by researchers at the United Medical and Dental School, Guy's Hospital, London; St Bartholomew's Hospital, London; and Nottingham University is published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Peers fight EC fraud

European Community countries should lose grants if they refuse to stamp out the fraudulent use of EC funds, the House of Lords EC select committee says. The peers, who have consistently complained of multi-million pound frauds involving European farming and structural funds, criticise the lack of political will within the EC to stop the misuse of funds. They say in a report published today that no member state is immune to fraud. As a last resort, if persuasion and advice fails, certain grants should be withdrawn from any member state which misuses EC funds. According to the EC's Court of Auditors, the main targets of the fraudsters are food and farm aid payments.

Exams reform opposed

Plans for a new examination to bridge the gap between GCSE and A levels ran into opposition yesterday from John Patten, the education secretary. The Northern Examinations and Assessment Board outlined the framework for an E level to be piloted in independent schools. Sixth-formers who are not ready for A levels or wish to broaden their studies will be offered 100-hour courses in five subjects. State and independent school head teachers are supporting the initiative because they believe that A levels are too narrow. However, ministers are refusing to contemplate a reform of A levels, which they regard as the "gold standard" of secondary education.

Woman hijacked in car

A woman aged 25 was abducted yesterday for almost half an hour by a knife-wielding man who hijacked her car at a service station. The woman had been using her mobile telephone at the Chieveley station on the A34 dual carriageway near Newbury, Berkshire, when a man got into the back seat and threatened her with a knife. Inspector John Reeve, of Thames Valley police, said the man made her drive off via country roads to the village of Curridge near Newbury, where she managed to escape and raise the alarm. The man then apparently drove back to Chieveley in the woman's Volvo car, where he changed into his own vehicle and drove off. The woman, from Bristol, was unhurt.

Magee faces extradition

An Irish court last night ordered the extradition to Britain of Joseph Magee, who is being sought in connection with the murder of Michael Newman, 34, a Royal Signals sergeant shot dead outside an army recruiting office in Derby last April. Mr Magee, 27, from Arragh, was arrested outside Limerick District Court after he was freed on another charge. Judge Michael Reilly ordered his extradition to Britain on a charge of murdering Sergeant Newman. He remanded Mr Magee in custody to Limerick jail. A lengthy legal battle is now likely before Mr Magee, who is expected to appeal against the ruling, is extradited. His lawyers have 14 days to lodge an appeal to the High Court in Dublin.

Airlines warned of need to hike fares

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIR fares will have to rise sharply over the next few years to recover from the "suicidal" low fares now on offer, airline chiefs were told yesterday.

Airlines have "paid" a billion, airline passengers the equivalent of £5.50 each for the privilege of carrying them over the past four years, and future passengers will have to meet that bill in higher fares as the airlines gradually return to profitability.

Pierre Jeannerot, the new director general of the International Air Transport Association, told airline chiefs in London that a large part of the aviation industry had been affected by "a bargain basement culture" which had been nurtured by politicians, consumers and the airlines themselves.

"By the end of 1993 the international aviation industry will probably have paid, during the past four years, \$10 dollars (\$6.50) to each of a billion passengers for the privilege of having carried them," he said.

When he was president of Air Canada, Mr Jeannerot said, "the passenger used to pay us".

The aviation industry, which was a vital component of the world's economic activi-

ty, "seems to have gone into a self-destruct mode" and was behaving like the lemmings of Norway or the Biblical Gardane swine, Mr Jeannerot said.

Greater efficiency must lead to better profits, better working conditions, better environmental efforts and better dividends, but the airline industry was already passing on to the consumer in the form of lower prices today all the advantages it hoped to achieve tomorrow through lower unit costs.

Only the consumer is being rewarded, and even subsidised. As a result billions of dollars of aircraft orders are being deferred or cancelled, jobs are being lost and improvements in the environmental impact of aircraft are being delayed.

"When, collectively, airlines run budget deficits or losses they are giving current customers a bonus and failing to reward the other partners. In the end the piper has to be paid and tomorrow's consumer will have to foot the bill in the form of price rises which will eventually be higher than

they would be if steady profits had been earned," Mr Jeannerot said.

Airlines must now strive to meet "the expectations of all their stakeholders". "Of course, customers want and deserve more choice. But stakeholders include the world economy, the tourism industry, society and investors and the financial market," he said.

"These partners in civil aviation cannot be ignored if the industry is to secure its long-term future."

He called on the airlines to ensure that the gains achieved by aggressive pursuit of greater efficiency and lower costs was shared out far more equally.

"To be market driven does not mean to be guided uniquely by consumerism. It also means to be driven by the expectations of the financial markets," he said.

Rarely have airlines been given such a forceful message that their prices are too low and their capacity too high. Coming from their new director general, the message will have an especially rousing effect.

Halifax says house prices may fall again

By RACHEL KELLY
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

PREDICTIONS of an upturn in house prices may be premature and over-optimistic, according to unpublished forecasts by the Halifax building society.

The country's largest mortgage-lender has avoided publishing a precise forecast this year, restricting itself to suggesting that house prices might end the year anywhere between 3 per cent higher and 5 per cent lower, a forecast so wide as to be almost meaningless.

The Halifax has concentrated its public pronouncements on optimistic forecasts of a 15 per cent rise in sales, fearing that pessimistic predictions about house prices might become self-fulfilling prophecies.

When pressed, Gary Marsh, head of research at the Halifax, said: "The likelihood is that house price rises will be between zero and minus three at the end of the year." But he said that economic uncertainty made it impossible to be more precise. "It's more sensible to predict the pattern of recovery, which will be that the housing market will remain weak in the first few months of the year with a pick-up in the second half. Whether house prices are stable or minus depends on the relative strengths of the second half of the year compared to the relative weaknesses."

In the past, the Halifax has issued precise forecasts of house prices. David Gilchrist, general manager, said that the lender was being cautious in its forecasts for this year because it was difficult to predict when the market would turn.

Other analysts are equally gloomy in their forecasts. John Wriglesworth of the stockbroker UBS Phillips & Drew predicted that prices would fall 5 per cent by the end of the year. □ London's economy shows "faltering signs" of an upturn, but lost jobs are unlikely to be replaced quickly, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

On show: pantomime murals found after the blaze

Castle's charred glory reopens to public tomorrow

By ALAN HAMILTON

EIGHT weeks after the disastrous fire, the state apartments of Windsor Castle reopen to the public tomorrow. With the opportunity for visitors to inspect the worst of the damage through glass screens, the nation's most powerful tourist magnet outside London is likely to become a bigger draw than ever.

Craftsmen and decorators had been at work for nearly five years renovating and refurbishing the 15 public state rooms when, on November 20, the fire unrolled much of their work. Most of the apartments open to the public escaped largely unharmed. Their priceless collections of Rembrandts and Holbeins, Van Dycks and Canalettos were carried to safety and are now restored to the walls. Most of the historic furniture is back in place.

Ceilings have been regilded as part of the long-term renovation, and walls featuring with deep crimson damask. Peering through the glass doors into St George's Hall and the Grand Reception Room offers a contrast that could not be sharper. They are largely reduced to ashes, piles of charred debris litter the floor, remnants of fabric drape from the walls, and their roofs are gone.

Among the blackened timbers of the Grand Reception Room that still litter the floor are strewn empty red fire extinguishers, tossed aside as useless when the blaze overcame the castle's small team of firefighters. In St George's Hall, archaeologists from

English Heritage, equipped with wheelbarrows and buckets, are sifting through the debris for anything that might be restored or preserved.

Eleven of the 15 apartments which the public normally see are ready to reopen. Two are destroyed and a further two are still undergoing long-term restoration.

Most fortunate was the escape of the Waterloo Chamber, the magnificently ornate room created to commemorate Wellington's victory, and normally hung with a series of grand portraits by Sir Thomas Lawrence. Huddled removal of the pictures on the day of the fire revealed an added attraction that had not been seen for nearly 50 years.

In 1944, when the pictures were in store away from the danger of enemy bombing, a talented 15-year-old schoolboy, Claude Whatham, painted the walls with a series of delicate pantomime cartoons. The scenes, it now transpires, were set decorations for a family performance at Christmas 1944, starring the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

□ Sir Alan Bailey, former permanent secretary at the transport department, is to chair the enquiry into fire protection measures at royal palaces. Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, announced in a Commons written reply last night.

Mr Brooke announced the enquiry after the Windsor Castle fire. He expects to receive the report within three or four months.



On show: pantomime murals found after the blaze

West Midlands police face malpractice charges

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN West Midlands police officers face disciplinary charges after investigations into the force's former serious crime squad, disbanded in 1989 after malpractice allegations. Ten former officers have escaped charges because they are no longer serving and 102 officers will be informally disciplined.

Britain's largest investigation into police corruption since the early 1980s, costing more than £1.8 million, has produced a stinging report on mismanagement but no prosecutions. Convictions against 12 men who complained about the squad have been declared unsafe or unsatisfactory. Eight other cases sent to the court of appeal after investigations supervised by the Police Complaints Authority

(PCA) are still awaiting a hearing. Yesterday the PCA said the seven officers, including a superintendent, face hearings before Frank Taylor, chief constable of Durham. The 28 disciplinary offences involve falsehood or perjury charges, which cover false or misleading statements, alterations or the destruction of documents or records. Dismissal is among the penalties. In addition, 102 officers have been or will be "advised", an informal disciplinary term for not following procedures or codes of practice or irregularities in recording interviews.

The investigations began after Geoffrey Dear, then chief constable of the West Midlands, disbanded the entire squad in 1989. The PCA and West Yorkshire officers were brought into examine complaints on alleged fabri-

cation of evidence, denial of suspects' access to solicitors and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. Last year, Barbara Mills QC, the director of public prosecutions, announced that there would be no criminal charges against police.

Yesterday the PCA said it had reviewed 79 cases covering 97 complaints, as well as ten investigations into the system used for paying informants. Sixty-six former serious crime squad officers and 160 officers from the West Midlands and other forces were investigated.

The majority of incidents took place in the early days of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the PCA found a lack of professionalism. Interviews and contemporary note-taking was sometimes poor. There were irregularities in interview records,

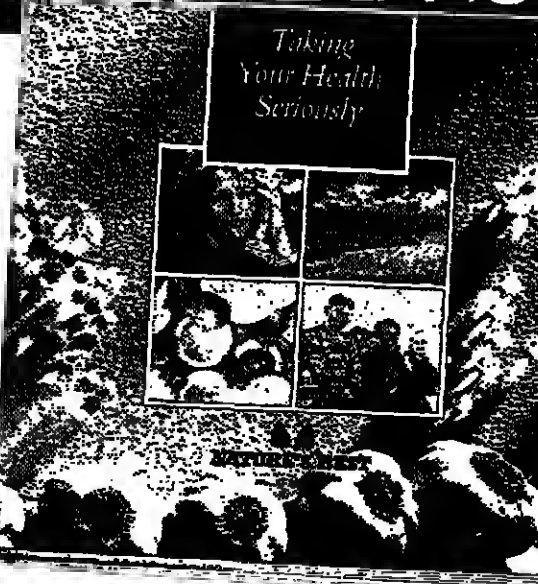
which led to successful appeals but did not provide sufficient proof of evidence for discipline hearings.

The PCA said it experienced considerable difficulty investigating events of four to six years ago. Memories had inevitably dimmed. Apart from the routine destruction of custody and other records, there was an absence of some original documents and officers' pocket books.

Peter Moorhouse, deputy chairman of the PCA, responsible for discipline, said a lot of controls had been put in place since the complaints against the squad which dated back to six years. He said the enquiry had achieved disciplinary results, released 12 people from jail, and brought about "major changes in the operating practices of specialist police squads. That is a pretty substantial return on a long enquiry."

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The fourth estate on trial: lawyers rally to the defence as the media prepares for a long battle against

Legal profession braced to challenge proposals amid fears for freedom

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW criminal sanctions to curb intrusions by the press, or any new civil law of privacy, will face tough opposition from the legal profession and the media, lawyers warned yesterday.

The government will also find itself on the horns of a dilemma over legal aid. If legal aid is granted for any such new tort, it may open the floodgates to a new area of legal action at a time when the Lord Chancellor wants to curb the soaring legal aid bill. If legal aid is not granted, then the new right of privacy is emasculated at birth, and like libel becomes a right only for the rich.

Yesterday, the Lord Chancellor's department said that if a decision was reached to introduce a new tort of privacy, it would then be for the cabinet to decide whether legal aid should be extended to this area. Both the Bar and the Law Society are opposed first to criminal sanctions which primarily hit the press as distinct from other groups; and there is widespread concern about any new tort of privacy which does not carry a

■ Lawyers believe that criminal sanctions introduced by a privacy law would punish employees rather than corporate offenders and, without legal aid, would be available only to the rich

corresponding law to protect freedom of expression.

Jonathan Caplan QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, said: "We felt criminal sanctions would put at risk young journalists instructed by their superiors to go out and get photographs or whatever, while those doing the instructing would escape prosecution altogether."

Instead, the Bar proposed a package of civil offences to tackle invasion of privacy by surveillance devices or telephone lenses, subject to a public-interest defence. Plaintiffs would be able to seek an injunction preventing publication, damages, and the recovery of material obtained.

Mr Caplan said that the Bar favoured a new criminal offence to prohibit possession of a surveillance device without a licence because "with the pace of technology, the potential for eavesdropping is ever increasing". This would be punishable by a fine and or

imprisonment, and the courts would have power of confiscation.

The Newspaper Society and Guild of British Newspaper Editors have also voiced concern over new criminal offences to tackle physical intrusion which apply to journalists. David Newell, head of legal affairs at the society, said: "Inevitably the step to create a special body of press law would materially impact on freedom of expression."

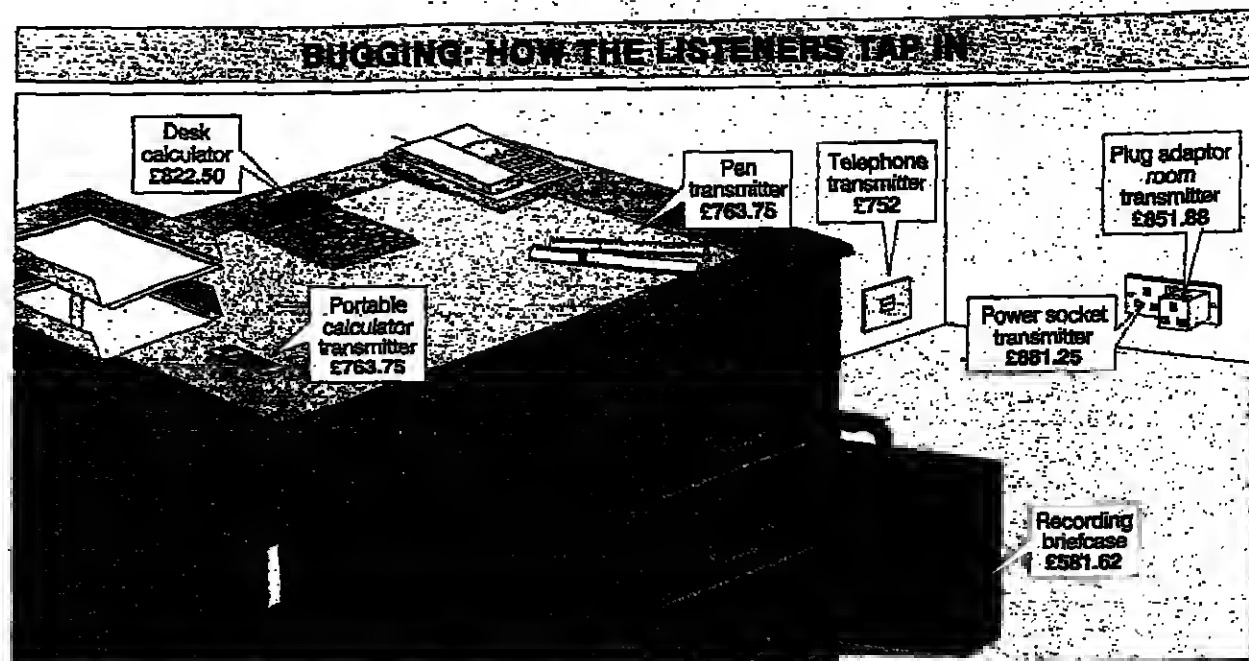
If the criminal law was tightened, it should be done in such a way which did not only apply to the press. Instead, the existing laws of trespass and harassment, including the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1975, could be more stringently enforced.

He said that he would not oppose a civil law of privacy if it was considered as part of a review of the whole law on freedom of expression. "But we would be very, very worried if any law of privacy was

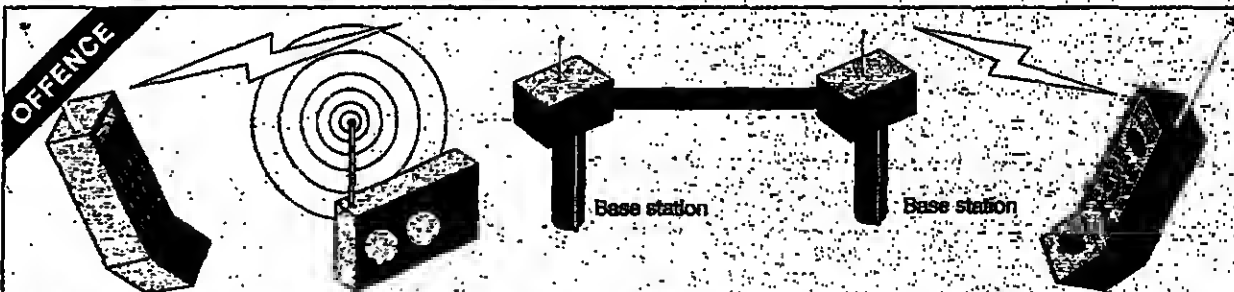
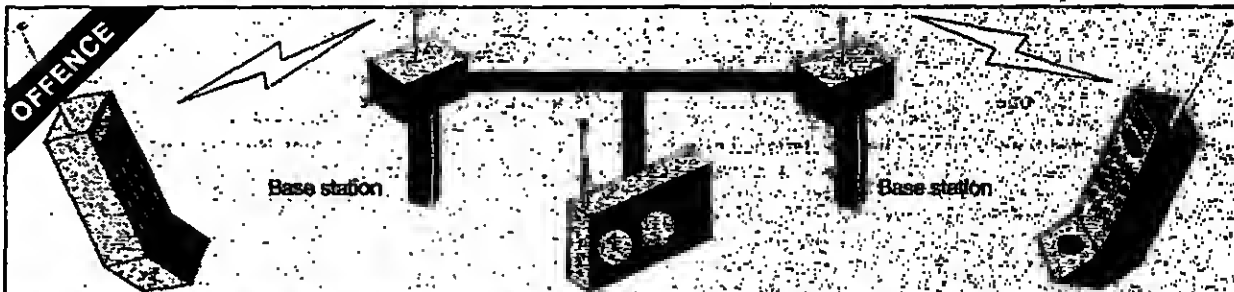
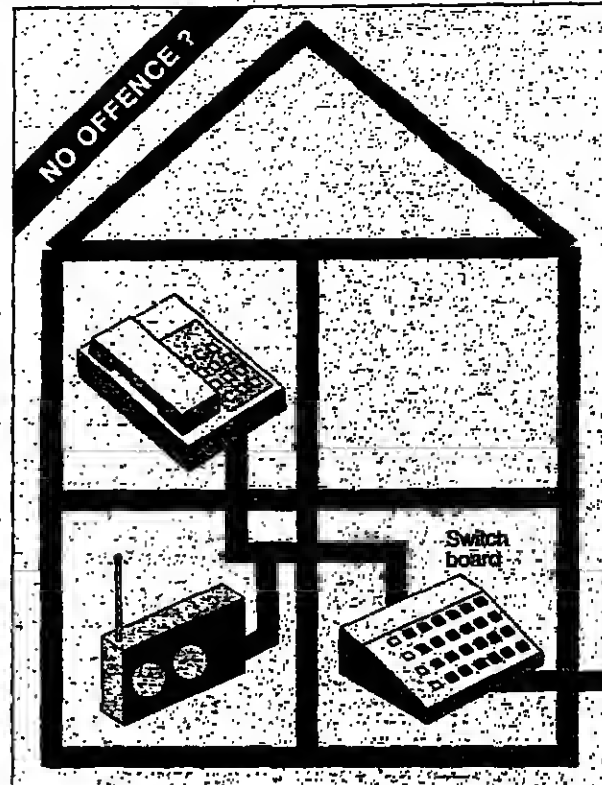
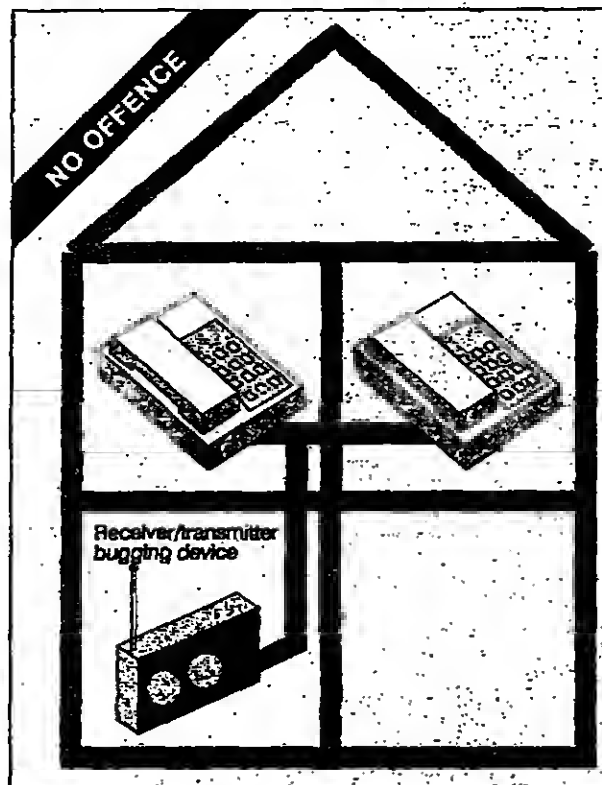
brought in without any defences which were wide enough and in a context which did not give individuals a right to certain freedom of speech." He said that "given the way the courts operate, the courts would always tend to favour private rights of an individual against the general right of a citizen to know what is going on".

A recent Bar working party on privacy was split but the majority against a new privacy law. Members felt that it would be difficult to define, and would give too much power to judges who would be left to decide on a case-by-case basis when publication was in the public interest.

The Law Society believes that a law of privacy creates the danger of censorship and that the government should instead incorporate into domestic law the European Convention on Human Rights, with its guarantee of a right of privacy.



They have ways of invading your privacy: many devices can be bought and placed in an office without the user ever knowing that their true purpose is eavesdropping



Microchip espionage puts ears in the walls — and almost anywhere else

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE art of eavesdropping has come a long way since Sir Francis Walsingham deployed spies to overhear plotters against Elizabeth I, and special branch detectives hid in a closet with pen and pad to note Lenin berating the party faithful in Edwardian London. In the modern microchip age, tiny equipment does the work accurately for less than £1,000.

The easiest way to eavesdrop is to leave a voice-activated tape recorder close to the target. As long as the machine is not set by trespass or burglary, there is no offence. The machine can be linked to a bigger set nearby or used with a long-distance microphone.

Tape recorders the size of credit cards are now available and come with removable external microphones which can be unhooked to a lead and pick up sound 20ft away. Such a tape recorder can be difficult to find even by an electronic "sweep". If the eavesdropper cannot get close he could use a camcorder with a zoom lens, and a video machine. An efficient lip reader would interpret the conversation, or a long-range microphone could pick up dialogue.

Tape recorders have to be retrieved and video cameras can be susceptible to unpredictable conditions. Transmitters — bugs — are accurate but illegal. The Wireless Telegraphy Act bans the equipment but an estimated 25,000 bugs are sold each year and there have been a

handful of recent prosecutions. Much of the equipment has been developed from military research and offers high quality results. Transmitters can be hidden anywhere but they must have a power source and are detectable if the target gets suspicious. Transmitters the size of a matchbox will broadcast clearly to a dedicated receiver the size of a packet of cigarettes. A roller pen now on sale not only writes but includes a

microphone and will transmit for 40 hours. A calculator enclosing a transmitter operates for two weeks. Neither pen nor calculator would look out of place in a boardroom. If batteries are a problem, electric plugs and sockets with hidden transmitters can take power from the mains supply and could be left indefinitely.

Tapping a telephone is also illegal under communications acts, and there have been five prosecutions in recent years. Transmitters can be placed inside telephones to pick up conversations both over the telephone and in the room. The telephone socket can also be replaced by one including a transmitter. Outside a building, the telephone line can be broken and reconnected with a small and easily disguised transmitter.

The growth of the mobile telephone adds another dimension because of the dev-

elopment of scanners, costing up to £400, which allow listeners to wander across radio frequencies and tune into conversations. Between 100,000 and 200,000 are being used in Britain by members of the public, criminals checking police operations, radio engineers and many of the 60,000 radio hams.

Scanners cannot guarantee to pick up the calls of a particular telephone, however, although equipment available abroad will enhance a scanner to do that job — at a cost of £16,000.

An immediate investigation into the security implications of the so-called Camillagate tape was demanded by a Labour MP yesterday (Christopher Elliott and Alan Hamilton write).

Mike O'Brien, MP for Warwickshire North and a member of the Commons home affairs select committee, has written to Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, asking who would have been able to listen to the alleged conversation between the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles, and how they could do so.

Mr O'Brien said there was little evidence that the security services were involved, but added: "The implications for security if people other than the security services are responsible gives serious cause for concern."

The Camillagate conversation, and others allegedly between the Princess of Wales and James Gilbey, and the

Duke and Duchess of York, all involved mobile telephones. A growing number of experts have dismissed the idea that all three could have been intercepted through the luck of enthusiastic amateur scanners, searching the radio frequencies. There is also some evidence to suggest that the conversations were re-broadcast to ensure that they were picked up by the electronic "hams".

If the tapes have been made as a result of systematic surveillance, the question remains by whom? Lord Rooker has suggested that M15 had the means and the motive; monitoring the royals for their own safety, which may have led to a leak. GCHQ, the government's massive listening station in Cheltenham, also has the equipment, but yesterday no evidence emerged to support the theory that they may have been involved.

In simpler circumstances, such as the theft of private letters from The Princess Royal to Commander Tim Laurence, the palace would have demanded an enquiry which could have been carried out by a senior detective from Scotland Yard's Serious and International Crime Branch. But the palace will not discuss the tapes, on or off the record. This makes it impossible for any organisation to get to the bottom of who made the tapes and why they were leaked two years later in such a comprehensively damaging fashion.

Editor calls for new laws

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE media have "unduly and wrongly" invaded people's privacy, Andreas Whitman Smith, editor of *The Independent*, said yesterday. He called for new laws against trespass, electronic eavesdropping and "peeping Tom pictures".

He was giving evidence to the Commons select committee on national heritage, which is investigating privacy and media intrusion, just before the Calcutt report was published.

COMMENTS

lished. He emphasised that any new laws should apply to everyone. He was firmly against laws directed just at the press. "There is no doubt that people's privacy is unduly and wrongly invaded by the media at the moment for no good reason," he said. He said that the Press Complaints Commission would have to continue to increase pressure on editors, and that it should reconsider fining guilty papers, a suggestion made in the Calcutt report.

Members of the committee made clear their objections to publication of photographs taken without consent, as in the case of the Duchess of York, Camilla Parker Bowles, and David Mellor. However, Gerald Kaufman, the committee chairman, said the cross-party group was nowhere near reaching a consensus on what sort of controls were needed.

Walking the fine line between reputation and sales figures

By BRIAN MACARTHUR

WHEN the Camillagate tape was published this week, Sir Nicholas Lloyd, editor of the *Daily Express*, was in no doubt where he stood on the ethical issue raised by the fact that it had been obtained illegally.

"We doubt that readers would thank us for salivating over dialogue that would serve only to draw upon the press the fire that belongs to the prince," he declared.

Editors such as Sir Nicholas deal daily with the ethical dilemmas posed by the Calcutt report and recently raised by the reporting of the rift between the Prince and Princess of Wales, the exposure of David Mellor's affair with an actress, or the publication of details of Norman Lamont's Access account. At a more humdrum level, there are calls asking if an item destined for the Ross Benson gossip column really merits publication.

As Sir Nicholas, who has edited three national newspapers over the past 11 years, brooded on the implications of the Calcutt report, he was frank about how experienced editors develop an instinct about what is right and what is wrong. "Two or three of us get together, a good taste committee, and we ask whether a story goes too far and if we think it does we censor it a bit," he said.

Although a newspaper lived or died by its reputation, said Sir Nicholas, it also lived or died by its sales figures. "We are in business and we have got to compete." There was no worse fate for an editor than to reject a royal story on grounds of good taste only to see it splashed all over a rival paper the following morning — and to realise his readers had been deprived of, worse, that they had been forced to buy another paper.

which Calcutt would seek to outlaw. That was why he supported Calcutt on the issue of bugging and eavesdropping.

"The electronic bugging of third parties is not acceptable, not even in the public interest, not even if it trapped a Robert Maxwell. The Mellor story because of the means by which it was obtained (and

This sort of bugging, Sir



Sir Nicholas: "We have to compete"

Nicholas pointed out, was a new development in British journalism. Until recently, reporters used tape recorders only to back up their written notes so that they could verify reports if their accuracy was challenged.

Sir Nicholas was less happy about some of the other Calcutt proposals. He asked why, if Sir David conceded that the number of complaints was so small, he was recommending a statutory commission. That was not fair to the Press Complaints Commission, which should be given more time to show its power. There should, however, be a majority of lay members, with fewer editors and more lawyers, and the great and the good, he said.

He accepted that there was a right to privacy, which included the right not to have details of one's Access account splashed across front pages, but was worried about how "public interest" would be defined as a defence against accusations of intrusion. He said the issue of privacy was a minefield. The best solution would be to adopt the American definition, that anybody who was a public figure was of public interest.

Invasions of privacy usually offered the most sensational stories, but are where ethical dilemmas become most acute. A cabinet minister who booked a hotel room to sleep with his mistress could not be bugged, but could the affair be reported? Sir Nicholas thought only if it was relevant to the performance of his duties, although politicians were fair game. "We do not publish stories about personal relationships unless the relationship is already known by a wide circle of people," Sir Nicholas said.

Criticism of the man and his methods

By IAN MURRAY

THE Calcutt report was described as "petulant and arrogant" by Brian Hitchen, editor of *The Daily Star* and a member of the Press Complaints Commission. "He has just got hold of the wrong end of the stick," he said.

"The report is riddled with wrong assumptions because he is short of the actual facts. His criticisms of the PCC are nonsense. He has never even been to a meeting to see how we work. The only time he ever visited us was for a buffet lunch on the day that the Waleses announced their separation. It was an eyeball-to-eyeball occasion for him to see what we looked like."

"He has a closed mind and seems to be miffed because his suggestions of three years ago were shelved. That meant he started this report from exactly the wrong point of view. If this report were implemented it would be a tragic step down the road to censorship and a further erosion of whatever press freedom we have, which can't be a good thing for this country."

"TV and radio are having a field day at our expense at the moment, but once they have picked us off, they will be next. We will be left with a *News at Ten* which has nothing but the weather and statements from Downing Street."

Peter Preston, editor of *The Guardian* and another member of the PCC, also felt

that because the recommendations of Sir David's first report had not been implemented "this makes him a terribly biased witness". He said the report took no account of the letter from Lord McGregor of Durris, the PCC chairman, which

disclosed how the commission had been misled over royal involvement in stories about the difficulties of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. "The PCC is simply blasted for searing in the public's eyes to be ineffective," he said. "If that was the sort of journalism one of my reporters produced, I would not be pleased. It is tendentious and dishonest."

The *Sun* described the report as "a charter for the establishment". A spokesman for the paper said it was delighted that the government had already dropped some of the "half-baked ideas for fining newspapers", and that the proposed new law would not make any difference "to ordinary people like our readers". "The issue is not about newspapers printing lies. It is about stopping us printing the truth about the high and mighty. We believe the PCC has been very effective in making newspapers clean up their act."

Andrew Neil of *The Sunday Times* said he had read the report "with mounting anger and real surprise that a supposedly intelligent man could recommend the most draconian controls of the British press ever. You could almost think that it had been written by the Politburo."

He said the British press was already operating under worse controls than almost any other free country "and this is a massive extension of that". "I cannot believe that sensible people could seriously suggest implementing this in a free society. If it were implemented, the press would be turned into the political poodle he obviously wants. I would think there would be huge battles to begin with which we would lose and then we would be a lame and neutered press."

"This is a second-rate piece of work, badly written and badly argued. It is worrying that a document with HMSO on it should be produced with these ideas. There is cause for real concern if the government goes down this road."

Dugal Nisbet-Smith, director of the Newspaper Society, which represents publishers of regional and local press, said its members would expect the government to reject outright "such authoritarian measures". It would "fight vigorously any attempt by the government to introduce criminal laws which would apply solely to journalists". The National Union of Journalists said the proposed criminal offence of intrusion into privacy could stop journalists doing their job of informing the public.

prosecution claims that criminal sanctions are the only effective curbs on a press unable to police itself

The press has failed to curtail its wildest excesses

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Calcutt committee's proposed press reforms are based on the premise that the industry's self-regulatory framework has failed to curb the "wildest excesses" of some newspapers.

Sir David Calcutt QC, the committee's chairman, makes clear his belief that the current system of regulation is beyond repair, cannot be modified and requires radical change. In a reminder of a comment from David Mellor, the former national heritage secretary, that the press was now "in the last-chance saloon", Sir David says that the press has failed to "put its own house in order" and needs statutory, independent regulation.

The report singles out for particularly damning criticism the Press Complaints Commission, which replaced the Press Council two years ago, charged with the task of giving more rights to the individual. According to Sir David, the commission, chaired by Lord McGregor of Durris, has not proved an effective regulator and does not operate a code of practice that commands the confidence of press and public.

"As constituted, it is, in essence, a body set up by the industry, financed by the industry, dominated by the industry and operating a code of practice devised by the industry and which is over-favourable to the industry," he says. "It has to be assumed that the industry, in setting up the present PCC, has gone as far as it was prepared to go. But it has not gone far enough."

The extent of the conflict between Sir David and the commission is evidenced by direct contradiction of the commission's view that a statutory regime would "give governments extensive means to emasculate the press... such as they have not possessed for centuries". Sir David retorts that his proposals would not do any such thing.

It is the alleged failure of the commission which prompted the committee to draw up its toughest proposals, in the shape of three new criminal offences preventing intrusion into privacy. These will outlaw any unauthorised entry to private property, telephone tapping, tape recording or photography, conducted with the intention of obtaining information. Among the defences available to newspapers and magazines will be that the act was carried out to counter anti-social conduct or crime, to prevent the public being misled by an individual, or to protect public health or safety.

Under the Calcutt proposals, any individual would have the right under civil law to seek a High Court injunction restraining publication of information, photographs or recordings obtained through committing one of the offences. This remedy would apply even if the offences took place outside Britain, but with a view to publication in England and Wales.

Sir David says that three primary matters had been

Tough sanctions are needed against those who invade privacy, Sir David Calcutt concludes, after damning criticism of the Press Complaints Commission

considered: to decide whether the commission had been effective and how arrangements could be modified; to provide better protection against intrusion; and to decide on the possible introduction of a statutory offence of infringement of privacy.

Five instances are cited in the report as causing particular concern:

- "Contemptuous treatment" of the commission by the *Daily Sport*, which repeated a violation of the industry's code of practice.
- Similar treatment by *The People* in undermining the commission over its publication of a picture of the naked Princess Eugenie, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of York.
- the commission's handling of the serialisation of Andrew Morton's book *Diana: Her True Story* last year.
- the commission's role in assessing press coverage of events leading to Mr Mellor's resignation as national heritage secretary.
- the commission's "apparent lack of public action" in other cases involving public figures, most notably events involving members of the royal family, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, and Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary.

Sir David has taken up several of the recommendations of the enquiry into privacy and related matters.

set up by the government in 1989 under his chairmanship. In particular, it has taken up the outlawing of the most blatant forms of physical intrusion and the possible formation of a statutory press tribunal for handling complaints.

The 88-page report is at pains to insist that the recommendations "are not designed to suppress free speech or stultify a vibrant and dynamic press. They are designed principally to ensure that privacy, which all agree should be respected, is protected from unjustifiable intrusion, and protected by a body in which the public, as well as the press has confidence."

Since the industry was given "one last chance" to control its excesses, the behaviour of some sections of the press has convinced the report's authors that voluntary self-regulation would not be sufficient.

The report argues that the press has shown itself unwilling to create a regulatory framework which commands the confidence not only of the press but of the public and which "fairly holds the balance between them". "I see no realistic prospect of that being changed by voluntary action."

The report examines the assertion of the Press Complaints Commission, in its annual report, that there have not been substantial numbers of complaints to editors from the public nor widespread complaint of intrusion into privacy.

The report accepts that the number of complaints was small but points to specific allegations of intrusion which present a different picture.

Evidence was given to the Calcutt committee by private individuals who claimed harassment, inaccurate reporting, unauthorised photography and invasion of the privacy of hospital patients or grieving relatives. These were people who were unwillingly thrown into the limelight. Some were not the principal focus of media interest but were merely their relatives, partners, friends or work colleagues and, as a result, themselves became subjected to press attention. The results were often devastating, affecting the health, professional credibility and working and personal relationships.

The report adds that, while the treatment of public figures was not intended to be its principal focus, there were a number of highly publicised cases during the course of the review. These showed that the press regarded as justifiable "every and any tactic to gain information".

It was not right for the friends and family of those in the public eye to be regarded as "fair game" for press intrusion. Sir David describes the use of financial inducements to obtain personal information as potentially sinister.

"I conclude that while, *prima facie*, everyone is entitled to protection of their privacy, those persons discharging public functions must be prepared to accept the level of that protection to be reduced to the extent, but only to the extent, that it is necessary for the public to be informed about matters directly affecting the discharge of their public functions."

The recommendation which has already provoked greatest media protest and drawn doubts from the government before the report was officially published is the plan to set up a statutory press tribunal. Sir David insists that such a tribunal would acquire a specialist expertise that would give it an advantage over the courts and would be more accessible to the public.

The report rejects suggestions that a publicly funded tribunal would lead to a government-controlled media, saying that the tribunal should be "wholly independent of government". It cites the Independent Television Commission, dealing with complaints against broadcasters, as a working model, adding that

its predecessor, the Independent Broadcasting Authority, showed how public confidence could be maintained.

The tribunal would be able to impose fines to a maximum level equivalent to 1 per cent of a publication's net annual revenue. In the case of individuals, the maximum would be £5,000 but there would be no penalty of imprisonment.

Sir David pulls away from imposing a further sanction of suspending publication of offending newspapers. "I do not share this view. It is one thing to prevent the press from publishing material which is in contravention of the code. It is quite another to prevent it from publishing legitimate information because of earlier breaches. In my view, this

would amount to censorship of an unacceptable kind."

Among its functions, the tribunal would:

- draw up and keep under review a code of practice;
- restrain publication of material in breach of the code;
- receive and enquire into complaints of alleged breaches;
- initiate its own investigations without a complaint;
- require a response to its enquiries;
- attempt conciliation and hold hearings;
- rule on alleged breaches of the code;
- warn and require the printing of apologies, corrections and replies;
- enforce publication of its adjudications.

require publishers to print apologies and corrections, and to set the terms of their publication, and to require that the publication prints a reply from the complainant.

The tribunal should have the power to award compensation in cases of inaccuracy and invasion of privacy, but the maximum payable should be limited by statute unless the complainant can show financial loss. It would be up to the tribunal to decide who should pay the compensation.

In extreme cases, where compensation alone is not considered sufficient, the tribunal should have the power to levy fines "pitched at a level which was likely to have a significant impact". In the case of a publisher, the report

proposes a maximum of 1 per cent of the publication's net revenue, and, in the case of an individual, a maximum of £5,000. But there should be no penalty of imprisonment.

The report also rejects powers to suspend offending publications: "It is one thing to prevent the press from publishing material that is in contravention of the code; it is quite another to prevent it from publishing legitimate information because of earlier breaches."

Costs should be met by the publication or individual committing the breach if the complaint is upheld, but not by complainants "unless their complaints were frivolous or vexatious or they had unreasonably refused conciliation".



Radical regulator: Sir David Calcutt denies that a press tribunal would create a government-controlled media

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Six key points behind report's verdict

Who commissioned Calcutt and why?

Sir David Calcutt QC was asked last July by David Mellor, then national heritage secretary, to carry out a review of the first 18 months of the Press Complaints Commission. This is a self-regulatory body set up to replace the discredited Press Council in January 1991, after Mr Mellor gave his memorable warning to the press that it was "drinking in the last-chance saloon" and faced statutory controls if it did not clean up its act.

Sir David, 62, a former chairman of the Bar Council and currently chairman of the City's Panel on Takeovers and Mergers, has an impressive establishment pedigree and is highly regarded by government. He is assessing the compensation to be paid to the Guildford Four.

How long will it be before any of the recommendations become law?

The government has made clear that it does not support a statutory framework for dealing with press complaints, so the regulatory measures recommended in the report are unlikely to be enacted. However, Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, told MPs yesterday that the government would back Sir David's recommendations on the introduction of new criminal offences, and consider new civil offences, to protect privacy. Mr Brooke said legislation would be brought forward "in due course" to effect the criminal offences, but it is unlikely to happen during the present parliamentary session.

Who would have redress? Any member of the public, whether a leading politician or a private individual, would be free to complain to the new complaints tribunal about press intrusion. Sir David's report makes it clear that the complaints body "should be accessible to those of limited means" and it is aimed at providing ordinary people with far

QUESTIONS

easier access to redress than is currently available through the courts.

To whom would you complain? Complaints would normally be directed to the tribunal by the injured party. The report also recommends that the tribunal have the power to initiate investigations without receiving a complaint and that third parties be able to make complaints.

The publisher would usually be required to respond to the complaint within seven days, quickly followed by a preliminary review. The complainant would have to appear at a hearing held by the tribunal.

What would be the penalties? The tribunal would have an armory of sanctions, ranging from a formal warning to fines of up to 1 per cent of the publication's net annual revenue or, in the case of individuals, up to £5,000. Sir David stops short of recommending that the tribunal should have the power to suspend publication of a newspaper. It would, though, be able to force publication of corrections, apologies, replies from complainants and texts of adjudications. Complainants would also be entitled to compensation.

If an order of the tribunal was flouted, it is likely that it would have power to refer a newspaper to the divisional court for punishment (a hefty fine with non-payment invoking the contempt laws and prospect of imprisonment).

Would this mean an end to libel actions? No, although fewer libel actions might reach court if more complaints were satisfactorily addressed through corrections and compensation. A wide-ranging law of privacy, however, would open up a new area of legal action against the press by those who could afford them.

Charges would put media in the dock

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE report proposes new criminal offences in England and Wales:

- entering or remaining on private property without the consent of the lawful occupant with intent to obtain personal information for publication;
- placing a surveillance device on private property without the consent of the lawful occupant with intent to obtain personal information for publication;
- using a surveillance device (whether on private property or elsewhere) in relation to an individual who is on private property without his consent with intent to obtain personal information about him for publication;
- taking a photograph or recording the voice of an

individual on private property without his consent for publication and with intent to identify the individual.

The report recommends that the government should consider further measures including introduction of a new

NEW OFFENCES

tort (civil wrong) of infringement of privacy and identification of any loopholes in laws covering the interception of telecommunications.

A sliding scale of penalties is proposed for those who violate the code of practice. At the bottom end of the scale, the tribunal should have the power to issue formal warnings. It should also have the power to

require publishers to print apologies and corrections, and to set the terms of their publication, and to require that the publication prints a reply from the complainant.

The tribunal should have the power to award compensation in cases of inaccuracy and invasion of privacy, but the maximum payable should be limited by statute unless the complainant can show financial loss. It would be up to the tribunal to decide who should pay the compensation.

In extreme cases, where compensation alone is not considered sufficient, the tribunal should have the power to levy fines "pitched at a level which was likely to have a significant impact". In the case of a publisher, the report

proposes a maximum of 1 per cent of the publication's net revenue, and, in the case of an individual, a maximum of £5,000. But there should be no penalty of imprisonment.

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Leaders clash in Commons over legal help for Lamont

By ROBERT MORGAN, POLITICAL STAFF

IN A bitter clash with the prime minister yesterday, John Smith, the Labour leader launched a campaign against what he sees as falling standards of behaviour in government.

He picked on the report that the Treasury paid part of the legal bill incurred by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, from his London house. Parliament was not told at the time and the facts were brought to light by the *News of the World*.

John Major, clearly angry that the matter had been raised in the Commons yesterday, accused Mr Smith of making "uncharacteristically cheap" remarks and innuendo after the Labour leader had suggested that Mr Lamont should repay the £4,700 provided by the Treasury to meet part of his bill. He said the report into the affair, published on Wednesday by the Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, "fully exonerated" the Treasury and made no criticism of Mr Lamont.

In the most bitter clash between the two men, Mr Smith questioned whether taxpayers' money should be used to finance the "legal

affairs in a private capacity" of a minister.

A furious prime minister declared: "It says a great deal about the day after our services have been in action in Iraq and we have troops in Bosnia, that Mr Smith raises this matter in the House."

Friends of Mr Smith made it clear last night that he had picked on the issue to illustrate his growing concern at the fall of standards in public life. He is, according to those close to him, concerned about the increasing arrogance of the civil service and the way it acts without the authority of ministers.

The Labour leader will spend the next few weeks drawing attention to the failings of the Whitehall machine and its reluctance to be open and above board. He intends to use the Labour party local government conference in Bournemouth next month to make an important speech on the constitution, and will devote a considerable part of it to the shortcomings in the conduct of government.

When Mr Smith raised the Lamont issue yesterday, Mr Major said: "It is uncharacteristic of Mr Smith to deal in innuendo. The matter to

which he refers has been dealt with by Sir John Bourn. An independent report has been commissioned. The answer is quite clear — no impropriety occurred."

Mr Smith asked: "Does the prime minister not understand the distinction between public duty and private concern? Is it not clear from the report to which Mr Major refers that the Chancellor instructed solicitors without referring it to any government legal adviser? Ought not the Chancellor to be asked to repay the money now?" He said the payment been "concealed under the heading expenditure on economic, financial and related administration". There had been an attempt to hide the matter.

The prime minister retorted angrily: "I repeat, as Mr Smith sits there smiling smugly, the Chancellor did not seek assistance, the Treasury broke no accounting rules and in the absence of those rules it was appropriate that the judgment should be exercised by two accounting officers."

"There is no criticism of the judgment that has been made. If Mr Smith had a shred of self-respect he would withdraw those remarks."



PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK

The Budget will be delivered on Tuesday March 16, it was announced.

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Tuesday and Wednesday: European Communities (amendment) bill, continuation of committee stage.

Thursday: Debate on the Royal Air Force.

Friday: Private member's bill:

shops (amendment) bill, second reading.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday: British Coal and British Rail (transfer proposals) bill, third reading.

Tuesday: Social security bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debate on proportional representation.

Thursday: Debate on EC environment policy.



Have a heart: doctors and nurses from the Royal Marsden and Royal Brompton, joined by celebrities, petition the prime minister in Downing Street yesterday to save their hospitals, which are threatened with closure

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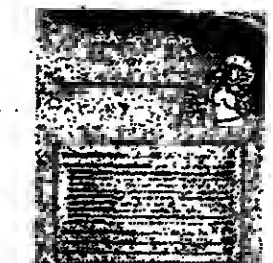
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A fading voice on the world stage

Douglas Hurd has said our foreign policy should be about Britain punching above its weight in the world. This comforting post-imperial message has been reinforced by Britain's role in the air strike against Iraq and confirmation of the further deployment of forces to Bosnia. Both decisions have raised questions about how far Britain is shadow boxing and whether there is weight behind the punch. We want to belong to the big boys' club, but are we prepared to pay the price?

Underlying Mr Hurd's remarks is the belief that Britain remains a power with global interests and a political, and if necessary military, reach beyond Europe. British prime ministers of both parties have taken this view since the Suez debacle in 1956. This has underpinned decisions on maintaining the British nuclear deterrent and a flexible conventional capacity to operate outside Europe. This approach has apparently been vindicated by both the Falklands conflict and the Gulf war.

The implicit political assumption has been that if Britain is to have a say in such global issues — short-hand for influence over the Americans — then we must be prepared to commit troops. The balance between influence and resources has been delicate ever since the Americans achieved a dominant say during the wartime allied summit. The two extremes have been Vietnam, where Harold Wilson refused to commit even a contingent of bagpipers, and the Falklands, which was almost entirely a British show.

In between, Britain has sought, by subtle diplomatic leverage, to translate a commitment of troops into a proportionately larger say over key strategic decisions. The inherent tensions were vividly illustrated during the Gulf war when Sir Peter de la Billière pressed London for a larger deployment so that Britain would have a division-size force which could operate semi-independently. This would raise the British say.

The ultimate irony of this

predicament was underlined in Malcolm Rifkind's statement on Wednesday. He repeatedly referred to coalition action, though it was a lopsided coalition since there were just six British aircraft out of 114 involved. That enabled Britain to share at least some of the spotlight after the operation's success. Ministers argue that even the small RAF participation showed that Britain was prepared to put substance into its political support for action.

It was, unexpectedly, a Labour MP, Bruce George, who questioned whether it was right that the forces were overwhelmingly supplied by America. "Would it not be more correct to have a better balance in any future world order?" That runs up against the current squeeze on defence spending.

Other restraints on Britain's global role were underlined during Mr Rifkind's statement about the deployment of additional forces to Bosnia. He drew a distinction between the immediate despatch of a small number of specialist troops and the deployment in the Adriatic as a contingency of the carrier group, with light artillery and other forces on board. There was, he said, no change in the policy of participating in the humanitarian effort. Several senior Tory backbenchers with defence links were worried about whether Britain was being dragged into an open-ended commitment.

The dilemma remains. The government, and Parliament, wants Britain to play a role on the world stage, even if it is in American-led actions under the UN umbrella. Financial constraints, and ambiguities over the use of military power in the post-Cold War world, mean that increasingly Britain will be a supporting actor rather than a leading actor.

PETER RIDDELL

Janet Daley, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Poverty gap grows wider

THE number of families living below benefit levels but not receiving welfare payments rose by nearly 50 per cent to just under three million between 1979 and 1989, according to report from the all-party social security committee (Gill Sherman writes).

Families under pension age, including students and disabled people, were hit hardest. While the number of pensioners living below benefit income stayed relatively constant at about one million, the number of non-pensioner families in this category doubled from 920,000 in 1979 to 1,860,000 in 1989.

Average income rose faster than that of the poorer groups while Margaret Thatcher was prime minister. Real income rose on average by a third in the 1980s, while those on supplementary benefit or in-

come support levels rose by only 15 per cent in real terms. Most of the increase in those on below minimum income levels can be attributed to the above-inflation increase in benefits. If benefit levels are kept constant and only adjusted in line with inflation since 1979, the total number of families on the margins of poverty remains unchanged, although the number of non-pensioner families still rose by over 50 per cent to 1.54 million.

David Willets (Havant, C), a member of the committee, said many of those on the lowest incomes were self-employed, and young people still living at home. Others who would fall below the safety net include: those who fail to take up their benefit and those who are not eligible because of their savings.

Danish leader resigns after judge says he lied in Tamil scandal

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

POUL Schlüter, the Danish prime minister, resigned last night after a judicial enquiry accused him of lying about measures to prevent Tamil refugees from entering the country from Sri Lanka. He nominated Henning Dyreborg, the finance minister, as his successor.

Mr Schlüter's departure comes at a critical time for the Danish government, which adopted a new law two weeks ago and will hold for the next six months. It is also a key time for the country, which is preparing to hold a referendum on the Maastricht treaty in April or May. He will make his formal resignation to Queen Margrethe II today.

Judge Mogens Hornslet of the Supreme Court reported that Mr Schlüter was said to have told a "direct truth" in 1989 when he reported to parliament that there had been no cover-up of an order to bar relatives of Tamil refugees already in Denmark from entering the country.

The 6,000-page report, released after a 32-month investigation, blamed the prime minister for failing to recognise that restrictions on Tamil immigrants in the late 1980s had been illegal. It further said that he had misled parliament by offering incomplete

or incorrect information. Two former Danish ministers of justice and four leading civil servants were also implicated in the affair.

"The prime minister must have realised that the downgrading of the Tamil case was illegal as maintained by the parliamentary ombudsman," Judge Hornslet said in his report. Several Danish politicians had predicted that Mr Schlüter would be forced to resign and that Mr Dyreborg, also of the Conservative party, would be named as his successor.

The Tamil affair dates from 1987 when Erik Ninn-Hansen, then the minister of justice, ordered that hundreds of relatives of Tamil refugees in Denmark no longer be allowed to join them, an order in breach of Danish law, known later as the "downgrading" of the Tamil refugees case. The order was reversed by his successor and an enquiry was ordered by the prime minister.

The 6,000-page report also said that Mr Schlüter was "directly wrong" when he told parliament during a debate on the Tamil affair in 1989 that "nothing has been swept under the carpet".

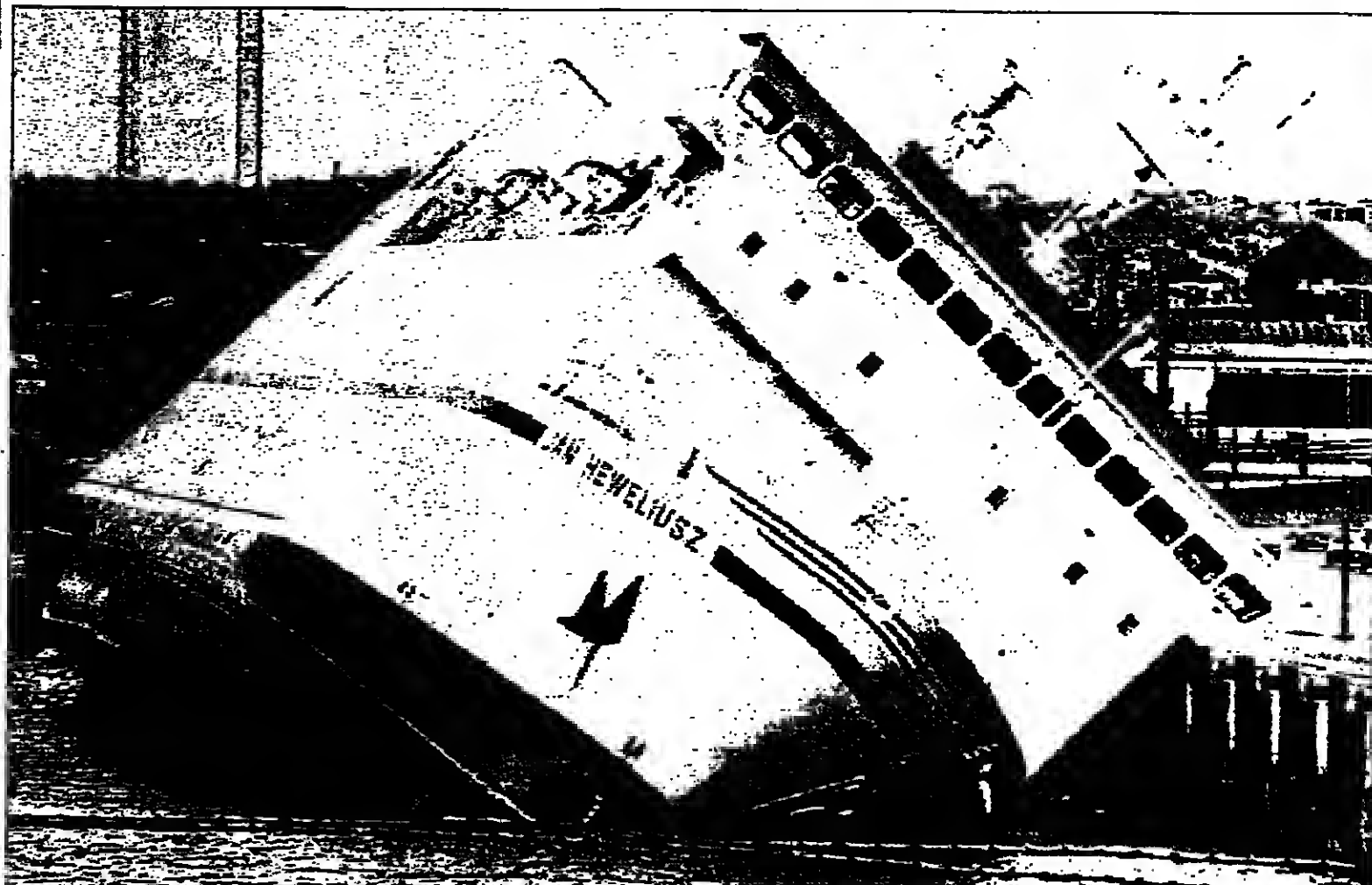
Conservative party leaders, including Mr Dyreborg, went

to Mr Schlüter's office for talks about the report and its political consequences yesterday afternoon amid rumours that the prime minister was poised to resign. Rumours were rife in parliament that Mr Schlüter, 63, would appoint Mr Dyreborg, 47, as his successor to lead the two-year-old Conservative-Liberal minority government, without calling premature elections.

Analysts were unsure whether such a move would have the backing of a majority in parliament, pointing to difficult days of political turmoil ahead. A vote of no confidence in the government could pave the way for a return to power of the Social Democrats after ten years in opposition. Mr Schlüter's government has only 59 seats in Denmark's 179-member parliament.

Energy tax: Denmark announced yesterday that it will revive a debate within the European Community — and with the Community's main trade partners — about a global energy tax. That idea, which got nowhere last year, tops an ambitious list of environmental protection matters that Denmark wants the Community to implement in the next six months when it presides at EC ministerial meetings. (AP)

Fifty-two die as Baltic ferry capsizes



Fated ferry, the Jan Heweliusz, which capsized in giant seas off north Germany before dawn yesterday, photographed in 1982 after it toppled over during loading at a dock in Ystad, Sweden. German army helicopters and lifeboats were searching last night for further survivors from the Polish roll-on roll-off ferry, after nine were rescued, but hopes were fading of finding anyone alive in the freezing water (Michael Binyon writes from Berlin). At least 52 people are known to have died.

Some people were thought to be trapped in the hull and divers struggled to reach them. The survivors suffered severe hypothermia. The 3,000-tonne ferry had been en route from Swinoujscie in Poland to Ystad with 31 passengers and 29 crew when it capsized 15 miles off the island of Rügen in the Baltic. Most passengers were Poles but they also included Germans and other West Europeans. Survivors said 30ft waves made it impossible to launch lifeboats.

Libya still refuses to sign treaty

Paris: Omar al-Montasser, Libya's foreign minister, attended the signing ceremony of the United Nations treaty banning chemical weapons here yesterday, but was barred from speaking because he did not sign the document (Sean Mac Carthy writes).

Delegates had thought Libya would finally set aside objections and sign.

Honecker greeted by family in Santiago

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

ERICH Honecker, the former East German leader, arrived in Santiago yesterday to be welcomed by his family and a group of Chilean sympathisers, after he had been granted exile to spend his remaining days with his wife, Margot, and daughter, Sonja, who is married to a Chilean.

Herr Honecker, who has an estimated six months to live because of liver cancer, was freed on Wednesday by courts in Berlin, where he had been standing trial for allegedly ordering the killing of East Germans seeking to flee to the West from 1961 to 1989. The trial of the architect of the Berlin Wall, who was also accused of corruption during his 15-year communist regime, was halted because of his declining health.

Herr Honecker arrived in São Paulo early yesterday and transferred to a flight to Santiago. Frau Honecker was quoted by a Chilean newspaper as saying her husband would go to a Santiago clinic soon after his arrival.

His presence has been received with mixed feelings. A largely conservative society prospering under free market and liberal policies, most Chileans harbour few sympathies for him. But several political leaders owe his regime a favour. "The Chilean government decision to grant exile to Honecker comes from humanitarian reasons," said a spokesman. "It is also a gesture in return for his welcoming many Chilean left-wing politicians during the dictatorship years of Pinochet."

Senate probes

Rome: Parliamentary immunity has been stripped from three Italian senators, Carlo Bernini and Severino Citaristi, for alleged public works contracts corruption, and Sisinio Zito for alleged electoral fraud. (Reuters)

Somalia pledge

Mogadishu: America intends to keep a "very large presence" in Somalia after handing over to a UN peacekeeping force, according to Robert Oakley, America's special envoy in the region. (Reuters)

Clarion call

Bonn: General Klaus Naumann, inspector-general of Germany's armed forces, has called for his troops to be allowed to join peacekeeping missions abroad. (Reuters)

Train explodes

Grenoble: A train carrying petrol was derailed and two sections exploded, injuring six residents of La Voûte, a town in southern France. Petrol flowed into sewers, causing explosions, and 1,000 residents were evacuated. (Reuters)

Soviet bomb based on stolen US plans

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

THE first Soviet atomic bomb, exploded in 1949, was modelled on a blueprint of the American atom bomb obtained by espionage, according to a Russian scientist who built it.

Yuli Khariton, who worked for decades on the Soviet nuclear programme, said in an address in Moscow that he and other scientists constructed the 1949 bomb after Klaus Fuchs, a German physicist, passed them the plans for the American bomb.

Mr Khariton said that the Soviet scientists' atomic bomb programme was advanced by the mid-1940s, but pressure from Stalin forced them to adopt the American model, which the United States first detonated in 1945, and then used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Soviet Union obtained plans of

the American atom bomb soon afterwards, he told *The New York Times*.

"We never abandoned our own work, but Fuchs enabled us to detonate a bomb two years earlier," Mr Khariton, 88, said. He still lives in Arzamas-16, the former monastery in central Russia which was the postwar centre for Soviet nuclear research.

Fuchs was a German-born communist sympathiser who moved to England in the 1930s and began passing secrets to the Soviet Union in 1941 because of what he saw as the West's dangerous refusal to share its atomic research. Between 1943 and 1946 he worked on building the American atom bomb. He was arrested in England in 1950 and spent nine years in jail. He died in East Germany in 1988.

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• 4.7 cu.ft. freezer
Model 9230R.
Was £299.99.
Currys Price **£279.99**

SAVE £20 +0% INTEREST

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Allied planes check scale of damage to Iraqi missile sites

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, IN LONDON
AND JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

A NEW air mission by the Gulf war allies was launched over Iraq yesterday but the operation was devoted solely to damage assessment. The results disproved claims by President Saddam Hussein that the American and British bombers had failed to damage their targets.

The targets for the raids on Wednesday had been surface-to-air missile batteries, air defence centres on some of Iraq's biggest air bases in the south, radars and communications sites. Yesterday a fleet of coalition aircraft took off from Saudi Arabian bases at Dhahran and Riyadh to photograph the damaged targets.

The air snipers included RAF Tornado GR1s equipped with laser designating systems that use television and infrared cameras, and American RF4Cs, modified Phantoms which have reconnaissance sensors, U2 high-altitude spy planes and Avacs, photographing from 30,000 ft. American satellites photographed the damaged targets, relaying instant pictures to Washington.

The Tornados returned Dhahran with high-resolution pictures, giving evidence of severe damage to the two targets which they had hit with six laser-guided 1,000lb bombs. The targets were two headquarters buildings on the al-Amarah base in southern Iraq connected to the country's air defence network. The buildings were at the heart of a radar control centre on the base, which is linked to anti-aircraft missile sites and fighter aircraft, and also to high-command bunkers.

The assessment by returning reconnaissance crews was that both buildings had suffered "extreme damage".

Crews of American reconnaissance aircraft made similar assessments of the bomb damage to the other targets.

In Washington, Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, said that the raids had had a "significant impact" on Iraqi air defences in the south. Brent Scowcroft, the White House national security adviser, estimated that half of the

targets attacked by allied aircraft had been destroyed. While senior Bush administration officials and the pilots who took part in the raids appeared satisfied with the early estimates of the results of the strike, policy-makers within the State Department and the Pentagon privately questioned the effectiveness of Wednesday night's attack. They pointed out that most of

Jubilant pilots relive exploits

On the USS Kitty Hawk, jubilant pilots returning to this aircraft carrier said yesterday that they believed they hit targets in southern Iraq on Wednesday with deadly accuracy while meeting light resistance (Randall Palmer writes).

"It was a very nice light show," said Lieutenant Bob Belandier, 28, an F14 Tomcat fighter pilot. Returning pilots exchanged shoulder slaps with the flight deck crew and then related excitedly how the allied attack went.

Below deck, pilots ate steak sandwiches at mid-night as they told tales of some anti-aircraft fire, of at least four surface-to-air missiles, of Iraqi jets in the air — but mostly of their successful attacks.

Rear Admiral Phillip Coady, commander of the carrier battle group, said it would take several days for the full results to be known, but he felt good about the results so far. (Reuters)

south of the 32nd parallel [the boundary of the no-fly zone], Commander Kevin Thomas, of an A18 Hornet squadron on the Kitty Hawk, said.

Further details of what type of planes were used by the Americans in the attack and also what munitions were employed were revealed yesterday. According to the Pentagon, the force of 80 attack aircraft, 35 from the Kitty Hawk, and 35 support planes included F117 "stealth" bombers, F16s, F15 Eagles, and F18 Hornets. Awas surveillance planes, tankers and helicopters were also used. Harm anti-radar missiles, laser-guided bombs and conventional explosives were fired in the attack.

Group Captain Vaughan Morris, commander of the Tornado detachment at Dhahran, said his crews would continue to police the no-fly zone until the job was completed, "and hopefully unmolested".

However, the success of the coalition raid did not hide the fact that this could be the start of a widening confrontation with Saddam which might mean the Gulf war allies attacking an increasing number of targets. This could lay them open to charges of using excessive force to punish the Iraqi people as well as his leader.

If Saddam continues to flout United Nations authority or takes revenge on the Kurds and Shias, the coalition forces will have to decide which are the appropriate targets for future action. Iraq has so many military bases that there is no shortage of potential targets. However, if future raids were as limited in scope as Wednesday's operation, they will not represent a real threat to Saddam's rule. They could also be counter-productive, especially if the Iraqi leader can show that the coalition attacks result in civilian deaths.

If past behaviour is anything to go by, Saddam is unlikely to challenge the coalition for a period and will pick what he perceives as the right time to test the West again. The danger is that the slap on the wrist for Saddam this time may have to be followed up in the months ahead with a tougher response. Yet, as the coalition forces made clear in the Gulf war, the object of the attacks would be to punish Saddam, not the Iraqi people.

The coalition can continue to hit missile batteries and radar sites, to undermine Iraq's rebuilding of the country's air defence network. It seems unlikely that America, Britain and France would feel justified in targeting Iraqi ground forces or garrisons.

New strike plan, page 1
Peter Riddell, page 8
Leading article, page 15



The morning after: two Jordanian men and an Iraqi woman in Amman reading about the allied coalition's bombing of Iraq yesterday. The main headline in *al-Rai*, the Jordanian daily newspaper, said: "American, British and French air aggression on southern Iraq".

Western coalition says Saddam's threats of a new war ring hollow

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

AS PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein yesterday declared a second holy war against the West, Western military analysts concluded that, despite his bluster, Iraq's ability to react militarily to the latest allied air strikes was limited. "The only difficulty in making a definitive judgment is what we call the 'X factor', a military anecdote said. "In the Gulf war it was setting fire to all the oil wells; this time, there is always the outside chance that it could be something we have not accounted for."

Iraq has few military assets left which are capable of penetrating allied defences in the Gulf in order to hit either their naval or air forces. A terrorist attack, possibly organised in league with radical Palestinian or Islamic groups against a soft target abroad, was thought to be a greater, though still remote, possibility.

Although Abu Nidal, the Palestinian extremist, is believed to be resident in Baghdad after being driven out of Libya, the effect of more than two years of United Nations sanctions against Iraq and the influence of the Middle East peace process has greatly reduced the effectiveness of Iraq's terror networks outside the country. The exception is neighbouring Jordan, where a defectoring Iraqi nuclear scientist was assassinated last year.

The most dangerous and unpredictable weapons remaining in Saddam's depleted arsenal are considered to be the estimated 200 Scud-type surface-to-surface missiles which UN experts fear are concealed in various locations, along with mobile launchers. These have a capability of hitting Israel, which has not yet put its citizens on any form of alert. Saudi Arabia, from where many of the allied planes took off, and other states in the Gulf, including Kuwait, where rumours of a possible Scud attack have been rife for months.

Between January 17 and February 26, 1991, Saddam fired more than 80 Scuds, or the longer-range Iraqi-built equivalents, at Saudi and Israeli targets. Postwar assessments show that the allies

■ Saddam has little hardware that can hit the allies badly. Two threats remain: terrorist action and highly mobile Scud launchers

failed to destroy any of his mobile Scud launchers, despite intensive air strikes, and that only 12 of the 30 fixed-site launchers were knocked out, despite the propaganda Western claims of a high success rate.

To counter the Scud threat, there are now American-supplied anti-missile Patriot missile batteries sited in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. During the Gulf conflict, Patriots knocked down about half the Scuds it intercepted.

Saddam's military options were seen by Western intelligence officials as being limited more by his realisation that any attempt to hit back risked fierce escalation and expanded confrontation than by any allied hardware now in the Gulf region. At stake was a much heavier allied response against Iraq's restored infrastructure.

With Iraq insisting last night that it would continue to resist the air exclusion zones imposed north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd parallel, recourse to the country's sizeable arsenal of anti-aircraft missiles and guns was

seen as the most likely response. But the experience of the allied pilots on Wednesday showed that even this option was initially being exercised with little of the panache shown during the Gulf conflict, when nearly all the 41 allied planes lost were brought down by such weapons.

Much less allied concern was felt about Saddam's severely depleted air force, down to 300 to 350 aircraft from its prewar strength of 700. The air force is likely to have even worse now against the highly equipped allies than it did in the war. One pilot who flew on Wednesday said: "We had sufficient firepower to ensure that any plane they had sent up against us would have been destroyed."

During the 1991 war, despite the rhetoric from Baghdad, Saddam backed off from any use of chemical weapons, afraid that the allies would counter in kind or, more probably, with a tactical nuclear strike. The same prudence is expected to dominate his thinking in 1993.

The Iraqi navy was virtually wiped out during the war and

has not been replaced. Allied officials were also confident that the Iraqis would be unable to make use of the four Silkorm anti-ship missiles that they stole back from UN bunkers in Kuwait at the weekend. It is considered that, as these were dumped in 1991, they are unlikely to be quickly serviceable.

Saddam might be tempted to respond with a limited armoured thrust or an artillery barrage into Kuwait. That would be a dangerous move in terms of the serial retaliation it could provoke, and one which the rapid dispatch of some 1,000 US troops to Kuwait, where they will arrive later today, is intended to counter.

Although Saddam lost about 3,000 tanks, 1,860 armoured fighting vehicles and 2,150 military planes in the battle to maintain his occupation of Kuwait, the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates he still has about 2,300 modern T72 tanks, plus lower-quality T62s, T55s and T54s, 2,900 armoured vehicles and more than 1,000 heavy guns. With virtually no allied land forces now in the region and Kuwait still rebuilding its shattered army, a cross-border thrust remained a possibility if Iraq intended to live up to its belligerent rhetoric.

Clinton stumbles over his poll vows

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton's political honeymoon is ending before he says "I do". He has been forced into a series of retreats from campaign pledges, and his commitments to run an ethical administration appear to have been tainted.

This week he admitted a need to "revisit" his pledge to cut income taxes for the middle class. Asked if that was a nice way of saying he had ruled out the idea, Mr Clinton replied: "It's a nice way of saying that I have to put everything back on the table." He has also backed away from a promise to halve the federal deficit within four years, pointing the blame on sharply increased deficit projections from the Bush presidency.

Reducing the deficit remains a Clinton objective, but his advisers concede that his popular cuts will be required in medical payments on old people, social security and other welfare and pension plans. An increased petrol tax, decided by Mr Clinton during the primaries, is now under consideration. Mr Clinton admits he will not have an economic recovery package ready to present when he is inaugurated next Wednesday, as promised.

A campaign promise to reduce the White House staff by 25 per cent has been downgraded to a "goal" and employee training financed by employers is likely to be voluntary rather than mandatory. Mr Clinton has also reversed his criticism of the Bush administration for turning back Haitian boat people without first granting hearings to those seeking political asylum in the United States, after receiving alarming estimates that 200,000 Haitians were planning to set sail for Florida.

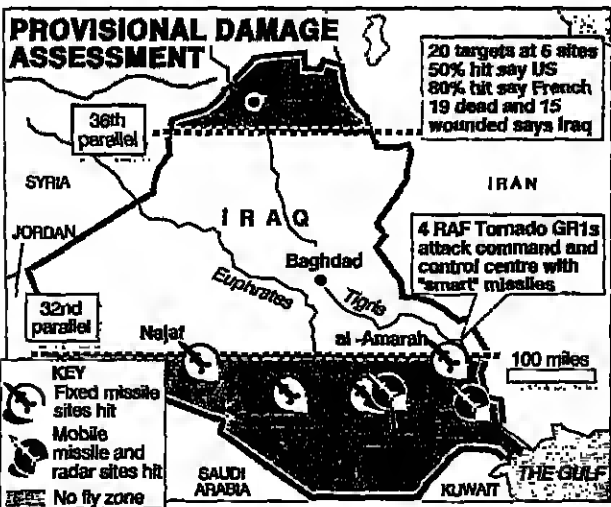
Mr Clinton has suffered setbacks in his promise to sweep Washington clean of pressure groups and conflicts of interest. His commerce secretary, Ron Brown, was forced to cancel an inaugural gala in his honour paid for by American and Japanese corporations.

In a similar kerfuffle, a representative of Hillary Clinton's two brothers has been seeking money from leading American companies for help to pay for inauguration parties for family members and campaign volunteers. Some companies declined and the parties may not go ahead.

Yesterday Zoe Baird, the Clinton choice to be attorney-general, admitted that she hired a Peruvian couple who were illegal aliens after being unable to recruit an American to care for her young son.

Campaign rhetoric often comes to grief in the reality of government. The political writer Jeff Fehel says American presidents since Kennedy have attempted to fulfil only about 60 per cent of what they said they would do.

A new poll has given Mr Clinton a favourable rating of 71 per cent, the highest for any president-elect, but 58 per cent of voters believe he has begun to back away from campaign commitments.



Kurds fear Baghdad's backlash

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

THREATS by Baghdad to even the score after the allied bombing of Iraqi missile bases below the 32nd parallel are being taken seriously by Iraqi Kurds in the north. "The revenge will fall on us," Serchil Kazaz, a spokesman in Ankara for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said.

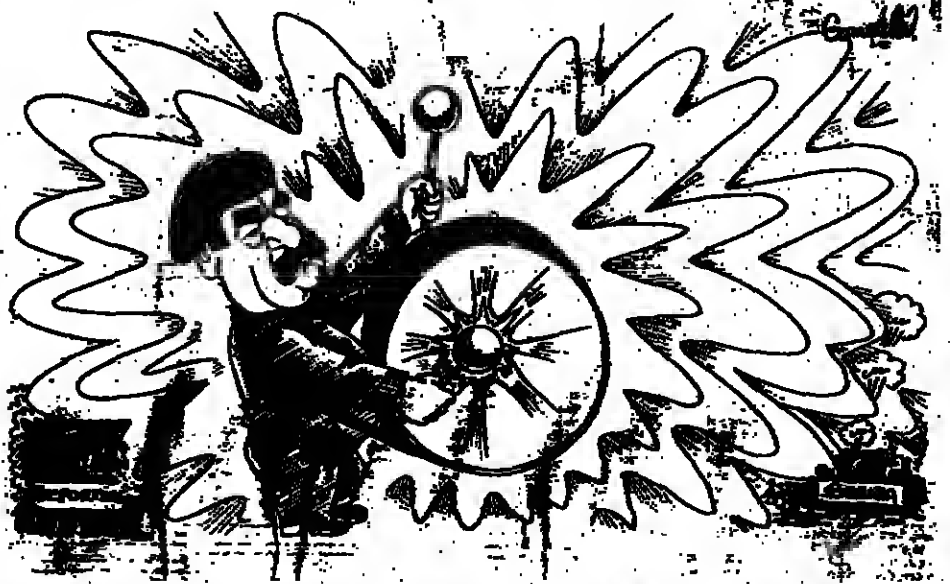
Iraq forces this week had begun reinforcing along the length of the de facto border with the rebel Kurds. Reports said there had been sporadic shelling of areas directly north of the main highway, above

Faida in the east to Kalak (between Mosul and Arbil) and Chamchamal, west of Sulaymaniyah. Iraqi planes also carried out a two-hour bombing raid on Peer Daud, nine miles south of Arbil.

Mr Kazaz said that there was a new sense of panic in these areas, and that people were preparing to flee to Turkey or Iran. In Dahuk province, near the border with Turkey, Baghdad has all but ceased to supply electricity. When the allied forces set up the Kurdish safe haven, they

arranged for the Iraqi authorities to restore electricity to the north. Any unilateral decision to cut the supply will be in defiance of that agreement.

The Iraqi Kurds will not be disappointed if the allied forces take the same belligerent line they are taking against Iraqi forces on the 36th parallel. Such a decision, however, would require the consent of Turkey where the allied planes patrolling Kurdish Iraq are based. But Ankara has distanced itself from the latest attacks against Iraq.



Beating the drum: the Egyptian daily *al-Ahram* contrasts Israel, Iraq and Bosnia

Chorus of Muslim countries goes through its ritual of lamentation

ACCORDING to a famous story in Arab literature, the great Caliph, Harun al-Rashid, in the eighth century, was one day brought a poet who had written an ode on the glory of the empire. After hearing him, the caliph ordered that his "mouth be filled with gold". But as soon as the joyous poet had set foot outside the palace, the caliph's men seized the money bag. Eventually the aggrieved poet caught up with the caliph's entourage in the countryside and complained. "Well," answered the great man, "you said something and we said something. Surely neither of us meant what he said."

This tradition of diplomacy has now become as much a heritage of the Islamic world as the tyranny of Nebuchad-

nezzar, the ruler of Babylon, who President Saddam Hussein idolises as an Arab nationalist. Thus it was yesterday that, when most Muslim governments expressed sorrow at the intervention of outsiders in the affairs of a sister Arab country, they knew that few fellow Muslims would believe them.

After all, President Mubarak of Egypt, who appeared to be setting the tone for the general lamentation, had himself been an important member of the American-led coalition that had executed the original Gulf war against Iraq two years ago.

Even though Wednesday's air raids over Iraq had been confined to military targets and were limited in scope, the Egyptian president expressed

Middle East observer **Hazhir Teimourian** finds irony in the public reactions yesterday of some Arab governments

fear that they might endanger the welfare and the unity of that country.

"Maintaining the security of the brotherly Iraqi people, the unity of its lands and the souls of its citizens... is vital to us," he said in a statement. Carefully avoiding any mention of the Iraqi ruler by name, President Mubarak urged "the Iraqi system to give up this gambling policy that brings (the foreigner's) harm to the people of Iraq, their rights and their future", as if Iraq enjoyed even partial democratic rights under Saddam.

It is calculated that a minimum of 300,000 Iraqis, mainly Kurds, have died at the hands of their government under Saddam in either political repression or acts of genocide, and definitely more Muslims have been slain in wars initiated by him than by any other since Genghis Khan. At the height of the Gulf war, Mr Mubarak regularly described the Iraqi ruler as "deranged".

Iraq's neighbour to the east, which suffered much at the hands of Saddam in the war between the two countries of 1980-1988, saw an

opportunity in the mini-crisis to claim full democracy for itself. President Rafsanjani, of Iran, who rigged last April's parliamentary elections by subjecting his opponents to a theological examination, claimed that the Americans had dared to attack Iraq only because "the relationship between the people and the government of that country was not similar to that prevailing in Iran".

Iran also criticised Saddam for "creating another pretext" for the United States to strengthen its military presence in the region; but it was careful to reserve its strongest words for the Western coalition. President Rafsanjani described the raids as "dishonourable" and aimed at the Iraqi people. Iran differs, in this assessment,

from the supposedly pro-Iranian Shia leaders of Iraq, who long for a decisive Western intervention in their country to topple their old tormentor. It is believed that a normalisation of politics in Iraq and the resumption of oil sales by that country would drastically reduce Iran's income from the sale of oil.

Jordan, whose King Hussein publicly denies that Saddam used gas against Kurdish towns and villages in 1988, accused the West of "moral bankruptcy", but only surreptitiously, hoping not to be noticed in the West itself. It allocated the task of playing to the gallery of Arab nationalists to its minister of information, Mahmud al-Sharif, who in an interview with the Arabic Service of the

BBC said Israel's recent disregard for the United Nations resolution on the deportation of Palestinians was similar to Saddam's incursions into Kuwait. King Hussein had recently appeared to be distancing himself from Baghdad, in the hope of regaining favour with the Gulf states, but he was snubbed.

As for Saudi Arabia, the leader of the Gulf states, it preferred to remain silent on the dispute between the Christian powers of the West and Muslim Iraq. After all, King Fahd's favourite title is the Keeper of the Holy Shrines (of Mecca and Medina). But did anybody really not notice that his country had played host to many of the aircraft that participated in the raids?

Serbs cling to their lifeline in the corridor of misery

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BRCKO, NORTHEAST BOSNIA

THE artillery boomed in the distance. Snezana bundled her two children into the back of the car and said: "I'll follow you all the way from Teslic." Dragan, 4, was sick. A man wrenched open the door and said: "Take us, take us too, I'll pay." He almost paid with his life. A car speeding the other way screamed in the mud, swerved and raised him. Welcome to life in the corridor.

Snezana set off at dawn. There was panic in Teslic, in Serb-held northern Bosnia.



Milosevic accepted Geneva peace plan

Herzegovina. It sits on the front line by a tongue of Muslim territory that lies deep into Serb-held land. "First the war was a game. Now it's for real," she said. On Sunday, four died as shells hit the town. People scrambled for the buses but there were not enough seats. She got on one, but it broke down in Doboj and the shells were falling there, too. Her bus crept on to Brcko. It died, tossing its passengers out onto the road. Here, at the narrowest point of the corridor that the Serbs call their lifeline, the refugees from Teslic were left to wait at any passing car.

If any deal is secured in Geneva — and Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, has already accepted Western peace proposals which must still be ratified by Bosnian Serb representatives — the one thing that is certain is that the Serbs will never give up this corridor. Through northern Bosnia it links Serbia to the Serb-held territories centred on Banja Luka and to those beyond in Croatia. It is a strip of land shelled from over the River Sava in Croatia.

As negotiators in Geneva discuss ways of dismantling the Bosnian wall of hate, on the ground the first cracks have appeared

from Muslim and Croat-held territory in the south and from a stubborn Croat-held river-side enclave called Orasje.

At its narrowest the corridor is barely two miles across. But according to Serb military sources in Brcko, at one point enemy front lines are just yards from the road. Croat and Muslim forces keep up constant pressure here, first to try to cut the road to isolate the Serbs, and secondly to tie up Serb forces who would otherwise be deployed elsewhere.

Under the terms of the map drawn up by the Geneva conference, the corridor area is due to be returned to Croat and Muslim control, largely because they were the majority populations in the region before the war. Serbs do not deny this, but say that without the corridor they cannot live, because the territorial link to Serbia would be broken.

Brcko is the eye of the hurricane. You can stand in the centre of town and watch

the Sava flow by peacefully. A few hundred yards away is Croatia. Brcko is shunned and desolate: its majority Croat and Muslim population have fled, but children still play in the streets. "Look at this," a gleeful 10-year-old said. It was not the usual empty case, but a live anti-aircraft shell. In the Bosnian civil war these are used on people, not planes.

The sound of artillery is constant. The Serb police and military chiefs sit unperturbed in their offices in the centre of town. Those that eke out an existence here slip and slide on the ice to a fountain to draw drinking water. "We have an unspoken agreement with the Croats," a police chief, who asked not to be named, said. "We only hit their military positions and they only hit ours. They do not target the town centre and we do not hit Gunja on the other side."

The corridor is a land of misery and danger. Travel by

day and, except for the packed buses plying between Belgrade, Banja Luka and beyond, you would not guess its crucial importance. But as night falls the lorries begin to roll. The road winds through tiny villages but the trucks laden with food and other goods slow down for nobody. The drivers do this for hard cash and not for the love of the Serbian cause. They thunder over newly churned holes in the road. Nobody stops to investigate if this is a fresh shell crater.

Beyond Brcko the corridor is virtually depopulated. Soldiers tramp the road thumbing lifts and shiver in the trench systems they have dug around Orasje. As the corridor widens, life is little better. Modrica and Derventa were taken by the Serbs in early summer. The destruction defies belief. Whole towns have been laid waste. Serb villages were burnt by the Croats and the Croatian and Muslim ones were put to the torch by the Serbs.

In devastated Derventa and Modrica, the handful of Serbs who remain depend on the Red Cross for survival. Serb refugees from Muslim and



Croat territory camp in the few undamaged homes from which Muslims and Croats have fled. To the north, in Croatia, lies a silent motorway. General Milan Martić, chief of the Serb enclave in Croatia, says he will permit traffic to cross his territory once the Croats and Muslims end their

attacks on the corridor, his "motorway". Compromise seems impossible here, but one day, when people are fed up with their leaders, there may be hope. Publicly artillery and strategy are everything, but in some places the wall of hate has begun to crumble. In one sector, Mount Majeveca,

the war is over. "We know them all," said one of the Brcko police chiefs. "We talk to them every day on the radio. At Majeveca we had two ceasefires and played football. We promised to just hold the lines and not to make any offensives. Not a single shell has fallen there since then."

Karadzic will push peace plan as best path to final victory

BY TIM JUDAH

BOSNIAN Serb leaders met yesterday to decide their future political strategy as preparations began for a gathering of the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament. The deputies are to meet in the next few days to decide whether to accept the peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina proposed by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the Geneva peace negotiators.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, has accepted the plan, as has Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, but it must be ratified by the 80 deputies before detailed negotiations can begin on its implementation. Dr Karadzic has presented the Vance-Owen plan as a Serb triumph, even though he was rejecting the same document only last week. "We are on the threshold of achieving our goal," he declared. "This is the protection of our rights — that was our basic goal, to protect Serbian rights, Serbian territories, Serbian integrity and personality."

The Vance-Owen plan is in essence a compromise document which preserves Bosnia's internationally recognised frontiers but splits the country into ten autonomous provinces. Each province would be dominated by one of the republic's three nations. The Bosnian Serbs had, until the last moment, held out for a confederation of three states, but this was rejected because Serb leaders had declared that the Serb and Croat states would soon secede to join their "motherlands". Theoretically the Vance-Owen plan should make this impossible, especially since Serb-held land is to be physically divided.

The Bosnian Serb assembly will gather in the knowledge of the dire consequences that will befall the Bosnian Serbs if they reject the peace plan. The European Community threatened Serbia yesterday with tighter sanctions unless they voted to accept, and Islamic countries have already vowed to break the international arms embargo and help Bosnia's Muslims.

In Belgrade diplomatic sources said that, while they were certain that the deputies could be prevailed upon to accept the plan, that endorsement would be largely cynical.

"They are playing for time," said one diplomat. "The Serbs do not want to be blamed for the collapse of peace talks, and the ultimate goal of uniting all Serb lands in one state has not been abandoned."

Dr Karadzic and his associates have already constructed a "Serbian Republic" of Bosnia-Herzegovina replete with functioning organs of power, an army, police force and government. Under the terms of the Geneva agreement, this "state within a state" must be dismantled, but any attempt to do so will meet with stiff resistance. However, Dr Karadzic will point out that time is not on the side of the Bosnian Serbs, and so they must be seen to accept the deal even if they have no intention of carrying it out.

He will tell deputies that, unless they accept the deal, they will face spring offensives by Muslim forces and increasing pressure from sanctions-racked Serbia to accept the deal. However, Dr Karadzic can also point to successful Serb diplomacy in the case of following.

In Croatia, Serb leaders were forced to accept a deal according to which they would be disarmed, put under United Nations protection, would have to begin negotiating their status within Croatia and ensure conditions for the safe return of mainly Croat refugees. Only UN protection has been achieved. The Serbs have strengthened their self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of

Krajina, and talks with the Croats have withered on the vine. Dr Karadzic will press his people to play for time by adopting a similar strategy, pointing out that since many Muslims see themselves as the losers of the plan they may continue fighting, thus alienating world opinion. In this way, the Serbian Republic (in Bosnia), even if called something else, would survive.

In Belgrade, Serb politicians close to Mr Milosevic indicate that he will prevail on the Bosnian Serbs to accept the deal, present himself as peacemaker and so demand the lifting of sanctions. They also say that, for domestic and international reasons, Mr Milosevic is not yet ready to countenance the creation of a Union of Serbian States, which would take in the Serb republics in Croatia and Bosnia.

Yesterday a UN convoy set off for the beleaguered eastern Bosnian town of Zepa after reports from amateur radio operators said that 85 people had died in the past 24 hours from cold and hunger, including 51 children. Zepa is a Muslim enclave close to another enclave, Srebrenica, where 17 are reportedly to have died. There was no independent confirmation of the reports but according to the UN, up to 400,000 could die of cold and hunger in Bosnia this winter.

Brussels: Martin Bangemann, a European commissioner, yesterday called for direct European military intervention in Yugoslavia and for a substantial role for a federal Community in world affairs (Tom Walker writes).

The speech, made to a corporate gathering sponsored by Daimler-Benz, confirmed his reputation for controversy. Herr Bangemann, who holds the industry portfolio, said EC member states could not just "sit in a corner" and pretend they had no business in events like the Yugoslav war. "If there are warring tribes in Yugoslavia, then we have to do something about it," he said. The EC should have similar status to the UN, and should go further than just securing aid convoys.

Bosnia build-up, page 1



On the bread line: an elderly Bosnian waiting for food to be distributed in a refugee home in Alipasino Polje, a suburb of Sarajevo, yesterday. A quarter of a loaf is the daily ration for each of the 410 people living there.

United Nations officials yesterday sent off a convoy carrying 80 tons of relief aid for Zepa, 35 miles east of Sarajevo. The Muslim enclave in Serb-held territory has been cut off from aid since the war began nine

months ago. On Wednesday amateur radio operators in Zepa reported 85 deaths in the previous 24 hours, including 51 children. In Srebrenica, near the Serbian border, Bosnian television reported that 17 people,

including nine children, froze to death or starved. Bosnian radio reported fighting near Bratunac, north of Srebrenica, between Muslim-led government troops and Serb rebels holding the town. (AP)

Journalists sacked in Belgrade 'purge'

BY DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A SARAJEVO reporter working for Oshobodenje has been shot dead by a sniper. Karmela Stojanovic was the fifth journalist from the newspaper to be killed in the Bosnian conflict.

The international press freedom group, Reporters sans Frontières, said in Paris yesterday that she was the 31st journalist killed in the fighting in former Yugoslavia. Her death was announced as widespread sacking of journalists and other professionals was under way in Serbia, where state television laid off 1,500 people. Many of them yesterday began the first of what

they pledged would be daily protests outside the television station. Most of those dismissed say they lost their jobs because of political views; some had been taken off the screen several months ago.

The largest opposition party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, accused the regime of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, of undertaking a political purge at the television station. Goran Percevic, a rising young official of the ruling Socialist Party, said: "We won the election and the big cleansing operation from top to bottom is now under way."



Karadzic believes time not on side of Serbs

Bosnians put their faith in the guns of Islam

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN TRAVNIK

THE cry of the muezzin calling the faithful to lunch-time prayer in Travnik's multicoloured mosque echoed around the winding Turkish streets. Travnik, a frontline city under joint Muslim-Croat control, is shelled daily, but still Muslims come to pray at the boarded-up 16th-century mosque.

Shrapnel scars from the air-burst shells that Serb fighters in the surrounding hills fire over the town cover the buildings nearby, including the house of the local imam, Nusret Abdibegovic. But the Muslim fighters worshipping at the mosque were confident that soon the

tide of war will turn in their favour with help from their Muslim allies. Today is the deadline set by Islamic countries for the world to stop the Serb onslaught against Bosnia. Otherwise Muslim states promised, after a summit at the end of last year, that they will ignore the UN arms embargo and tip the military balance in the Bosnian Muslims' favour by supplying the weapons they want. Bosnian fighters say they need only defensive weapons such as anti-tank missiles to stop the Serbs.

The soldiers praying in Travnik were sure that help would soon arrive from Bosnia's Islamic allies. "The Muslim countries will do something for Bosnia," said Samir, a 20-year-old fighter,

standing outside the mosque with his Kalashnikov strapped to his back. "Maybe they will wait seven days or they will do something immediately, but they will give us arms because there is no one else to help. Europe has betrayed us, so now there is no other way."

The fighters said that the Islamic countries now offered their only hope. Serb propaganda has long claimed that the Bosnian presidency aims to establish a Muslim state in Bosnia, which the multi-ethnic government strongly denies. But still in towns like Travnik there is a process among the Bosnian fighters, if not of creeping Islamisation, then at least a slow reorientation to the east. "If you asked me

before the war, I would say that it was nice to be a European Muslim," said Nusret Abdibegovic. "But now I have to say we don't feel the same as we used to, here in Travnik. We feel that Europe has forgotten us, even though we are part of it. So we have accepted help from our Muslim brothers because it's their duty to help us. If the Serbs say they will defend Europe from Islam, we say we will defend Europe from Serbian Orthodoxy."

In fact, military help from Islamic countries has already arrived. It only on a small-scale, ad hoc basis. The Muslim force is a part of the Bosnian army, but only strictly Islamic fighters join. Many are foreign veterans of fighting in the Middle East

was against Israel or the Gulf conflicts. Others were students in Bosnia before the war, or Muslim aid workers who decided that taking up the gun is more use than distributing food packages.

Bosnians are extremely sensitive about the presence of foreign Mujahidin, as they fear their presence will be used in Serb propaganda. We met a wounded Algerian fighter in a hospital in central Bosnia who had been fighting outside Sarajevo. "I came here for the idea of Islam," he said.

But when we asked if he felt he was fighting a jihad, a nurse nearby immediately stopped the interview and asked that we not identify his location.

THE SHOCKING

HEAL'S SALE.

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TOTTENHAM CT. RD W1 HEAL'S TUNSGATE GUILDFORD

From films to lavatory paper, everybody is cashing in on creatures that vanished 65 million years ago

The age of the dinosaur has returned in a big way

WHY are dinosaurs so fascinating? An American child psychologist, asked this question by the palaeontologist Stephen Jay Gould, gave a succinct answer: "Big, fierce, and extinct."

The public's appetite for dinosaurs apparently has no limits. In the United States, where they do these things with even less restraint than us, you can buy dinosaur-egg soap, a rocking Stegosaurus for the child who has everything else, a Brontosaurus bank, even dinosaur lavatory paper with a different creature on each perforated piece. As for books — you could furnish a room with the titles devoted to dinosaurs.

The Natural History Museum reports unprecedented queues for its new, and excellent, dinosaur gallery. When the Steven Spielberg film *Jurassic Park*, which tells the tale of a mad millionaire who

commissions a scientist to bring the dinosaurs back to life, opens in the summer, enthusiasm will be unconfined.

Professor Gould believes that this mania for dinosaurs is a recent thing. While its scale is unprecedented, my own feeling is that dinosaurs have always been top of the scientific pops, ever since the anatomist Richard Owen first named the "terrible reptiles" at a meeting of the British Association in 1841. Owen it was who organised the construction of the first life-size dinosaurs, for the 1851 exhibition.

When the models, now known to be anatomical nonsense, were moved to the Crystal Palace park in 1853, 21 eminent guests were treated to a seven-course dinner inside the body of the



Riding high: the Flintstones' pet is one example of the craze sweeping popular culture

keep the pot boiling. The current wisdom has it that the dinosaurs were a far brighter, swifter, and more varied group of creatures than we once believed. They ranged in size from something as small as a domestic chicken to a beast as big as a double-decker bus.

Only last week a new discovery made the headlines. This was the most primitive and possibly the oldest dinosaur ever to be found, a creature no bigger than a Labrador and given the name *Eoraptor lunensis*, or "dawn stealer".

Eoraptor, found in the foothills of the Andes, is believed to have been the forerunner of the king of dinosaurs, *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, and lived about 225 million years ago.

Iguanodon. The invitations were written on the wing of a *Pterodactyl*, and the lucky guests ploughed their way through turkey, ham, pigeon pie, curried hare, pheasants, woodcock and snipe, to mention only the principal courses. Dinosaur mania was well and truly launched.

Ever since, there has been a steady trickle of new dinosaur discoveries and a deal of speculation about their fate to

believe that *Eoraptor* flourished close to the very dawn of the dinosaur era. This gives us a date of perhaps 240 million years ago for the beginning of the dinosaurs, pushing back their origins by ten million years or so. As every schoolboy knows, they ended in a catastrophic hurry 65 million years ago, as entire genera disappeared in one of the great extinctions that periodically seem to sweep the Earth.

Alan Charig, of the Natural History Museum, once topped up the number of explanations that have been put forward to explain the extinction, and produced a list of more than a hundred. These ranged from the frankly whacky — dinosaurs had such an impoverished inner life that they eventually died of sheer boredom — to the canisymic. The best-accepted explanations today are perfectly in keeping with the dinosaurs' reputation for superlatives.

It seems that they died off after the Earth was struck by a foreign object from space, most probably a meteorite. Scientists have even identified where it struck, creating a huge impact crater in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Drops of glassy rock produced by the impact have been found in Haiti, and a site identified for the crater.

AFTER the impact, a great darkness fell over the Earth as dust and debris were swept into the atmosphere. The plants upon which the herbivorous dinosaurs depended died, breaking the food chain and leaving creatures everywhere starving to death. As the herbivorous dinosaurs died off, the carnivores were left lunchless. An alternative explanation favoured by some is that the extinction was more gradual, and was caused by the mother and father of a volcanic eruption, which had similarly disastrous effects on the climate.

The growing evidence about how the dinosaurs died has coincided in the past decade with new information about how they lived. The old idea that they were so heavy they must have spent their lives semi-submerged in water has given way to a much more lively image, of fleet-footed creatures such as *Dromaeosaurus* or *Deinonychus* which could run as fast as a horse and were equipped with



Domestic dinosaur: a Walt Disney version of the creature that has become a monster hit

vicious switchblade-like claws. Nor were they quite as dumb as cartoonists have always portrayed them. They were at least as bright as modern reptiles, with some coming close to the intelligence of mammals. Some species formed herds that migrated with the vulnerable young enclosed at the centre, protected by older creatures. Others seem to have been good mothers, hatching and brooding their young as diligently as many modern birds.

Nor are the dinosaurs even extinct, in one sense. The evidence is that they survive in the form of birds, an idea that dates all the way back to T.H. Huxley, Darwin's great champion. Huxley's ideas have been revived in recent years. Now many palaeontologists believe that the prototype bird *Archaeopteryx* originated from creatures rather like the *Archaeopteryx*. If so, we can see a proto-dinosaur any time we like simply by looking out of the window.

All this has given the dinosaurs a more three-dimensional image, and may have contributed to the renewed passion. But the real reasons are simpler. Dinosaurs are fierce, but not frightening. Their very extinction enables us to enjoy them without alarm, and the remaining gaps in our knowledge provides generous room for speculation.

Some scholars deprecate the popularisation of the dinosaur, seeing it as pandering to low tastes and vulgar knowledge. But I suspect that Richard Owen, were he around to see what fame creatures have acquired, would be delighted. Natural history is supposed to be fun: and in the world of the dinosaurs it certainly is.

A monster of an industry

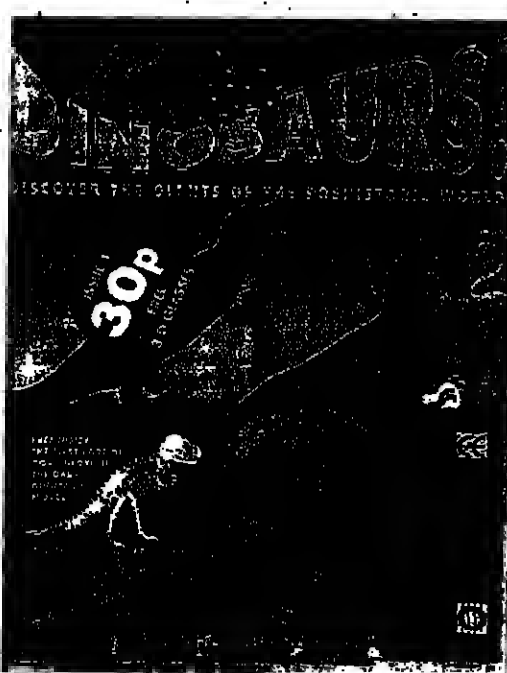
They might have died out 65 million years ago, but dinosaurs are very much still with us.

A quick trawl through the popular cultural museum throws up dozens of references. In no particular order: Dino, the Flintstones' pet dinosaur; Marc Bolan's *Tyrannosaurus Rex* (later abbreviated to T.Rex); The Move's "Brontosaurus"; Was (Not Was)'s "Walk the Dinosaur"; the 1970s group Terry Dacyl and the Dinosaurs; the 1990s grunge-rock group Dinosaur Jr.; Godzilla (actually a post-nuclear mutant, but, hey, he looks, walks and talks like a dinosaur, so sure as shoot is a dinosaur); and a multi-million pound industry in dinosaur toys. We can expect a further surge of dino-mania when Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* comes out in Britain this summer.

The Natural History Museum shop sells the following dinosaur artefacts: plastic models (static or battery operated), dinosaur pencils, glow-in-the-dark dinosaurs, dinosaur key rings, dinosaur stickers, dinosaur writing pads, inflatable dinosaurs, dinosaur jewellery, dinosaur cups, dinosaur mugs, dinosaur pens. "Basically anything", one of the assistants said, "that you can put a dinosaur on". In fact, the museum's shop cannot handle the volume of dinosaur traffic. They have opened a dinosaur-dedicated shop. It's called the Dinosaur.

Our fascination with dinosaurs begins in childhood. Calvin, the child hero of the Calvin Hobbes comic strip, is monumentally ignorant about everything except dinosaurs, and regularly fantasises himself as a marauding *Tyrannosaurus*. In one strip, as his parents take him round a museum, he begs them not to embarrass him by making asinine mistakes about the difference between a *Stegosaurus* and a *Brontosaurus*.

Last year was designated the Year of the Dinosaur, but for publishers of children's books, every year is just that. The books come in almost as many shapes and sizes as the dinosaurs themselves. There is *The Dinosaur Wall*, Chari (Studio Editions, £10.99) which opens out into an 11ft panorama. Or



Old and new: *Dinosaurs* is published this week

there is *Dinosaurs* (Moonlight Publishing, £6.50) — a little, square toy-book which plays clever games with transparent pages, changing images as you turn them over.

Some of the most satisfying books about dinosaurs are those that play down the drama and simply try to present the evidence. Best of the recent output is Dr Michael Benton's *Dinosaur Fact Finder* (Kingsfisher, £9.99) which gives a systematic description of the main species. The approach is ultimately more helpful than the chronological, but over-dramatic, *Dinosaur Encyclopedia for Children* by Philip Whitfield (Gollancz, £9.99).

Undoubtedly the oddest contribution from last year's publications is *Dinotopia* by the American author James Gurney (Dorling Kindersley, £15). This is a kind of baroque, humanitarian re-run of Conan Doyle's *Lost World*, with two shipwrecked humans discovering an island community where people and dinosaurs have worked out a complete co-operative economy. *Dinotopia* has inspired a *Dinosaur Club* to be launched at the end of this month.

Two children's publications about dinosaurs are launched this week. *Dinosaurs*, published by Orbis, is a part-work running over 78 weeks at a cover price of 30p for the first issue and £1.50 thereafter. The *World of Dinosaurs*, published by Aim Publications Ltd, is a 16-page magazine aimed at four- to nine-year-olds. It has a cover price of £1.60.

Adults are soppy about dinosaurs, and wilfully indulge in anachronistic meetings between prehistoric man and dinosaurs that bring out the Leavisite in younger experts. Grown-ups might have gawped at her fur bikini, but children snorted with disapproval as Raquel Welch suggested it out with a selection of clumsily magnified lizards in *One Million Years BC*. Gary Larson, "The Far Side" cartoonist, went so far as to apologise, in his introduction to *The Far Side Gallery*, for sinning against history by putting dinosaurs and primates in the same cartoons.

Like everything else, dinosaurs can be subject to a creeping revisionism. One of the first strips to run in the popular (and exhilaratingly violent) comic *2000AD* was "Flesh", in which time-travelling ranchers from the future go back to the Cretaceous age in order to harvest the creatures for their meat. The strip was little more than an excuse for portraying he-man heroics and gratuitous excesses with laser chainsaws.

Fifteen years afterwards, the idea has been resurrected. It is still an exercise in the depiction of carnage, but has been given an ecological twist, with the writer's sympathies very much with the dinosaurs. The strip — at time of going to press, approaching a gory climax — celebrates the enduring triumph of brutality and stupidity against the prevailing mammalian virtues of cunning and adaptability. In the words of Stephen Jay Gould: bully for *Brontosaurus*. Long may their claws lodge in our psyches.

Reporting by NICK LEZARD and BRIAN ALDERSON
For information on the *Dinosaur Club*, contact Jac-A-Saurus, 071-753 3553.

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KATA AL-FALGI

Golden boy soars into middle age

With money in the bank, and his political career apparently grounded, Jonathan Aitken returned to his first love — writing — to produce an acclaimed biography of Richard Nixon

The other day Jonathan Aitken was on a British Airways flight when he was offered a glass of white wine. "A very nice wine for drinking," said the steward, "and for throwing too, sir." Mr Aitken is, of course, always to be the man over whom Anna Ford threw a glass of wine. "I live with it to this day. In my obituary far more space will be devoted to that than to my being minister for defence procurement."

Life is full of ironies which summon up one of his dimpled smiles. He decided four years ago — when his political career seemed to be going nowhere — to devote his energy to writing a life of Richard Nixon. But by the day of publication, to admitting reviews, this week he was in the Gulf on the ministerial business of bombing Saddam Hussein's missile sites about which "an uncharacteristic reticence must descend".

And here is another irony. "That the graduate of the dock at the Old Bailey on Official Secrets charges is now in charge of some of the nation's most exciting military secrets."

It is apt to recall, in the week of the Calcutt recommendations, that in his journalist days Mr Aitken nearly went to jail for publishing in *The Sunday Telegraph* a report about Britain supplying arms to Nigeria during the Biafra war. He had stood, unflinchingly, in the same dock as Crippen and the Krays, his bag manfully packed for prison, because in those days anyone convicted under Section 2 of the act received a custodial sentence.

"Counts were intent on teaching impatient young upstart journalists a lesson. Under the law as it stood we were unquestionably guilty. We had received official information we were not authorised to receive, and had communicated it to others. What we were really doing was rolling the dice and challenging a ludicrously unfair and unjust act, but it was a high-risk strategy."

Luckily the judge was the unpredictable Mr Justice Caulfield (he of the Archer trial "fragrant" summing up) who made his feelings clear. "His closing words linger in my memory: 'It may well be during the course of this case you have said to yourselves, 'Well, really, we can't see the wood for the trees'. Members of the jury, you might pause and ask yourselves whether there are any trees there at all.'"

He remains, unsurprisingly, not in favour of regulating the press. "The freedom of the press has almost always been inconvenient to those with any responsibility for authority, but it is nevertheless a good thing." As for the saga of the royals: "I feel that to a substantial degree it is self-inflicted wounds."

The last time I interviewed Mr Aitken he was 25 and in bed. He had come to Cambridge to debate at the Union in favour of legalising pot. I was a reporter on the undergraduate paper *Varsity*. We were to meet for breakfast the morning after the debate. He was asleep when I arrived but coolly ordered breakfast to be brought up, telling room service: "I have a guest. I thought him even by Old Etonian standards the suavest young man I had ever met."

But he was never quite as confident as he seemed. In those days he led a charmed existence as a roving correspondent for one of

his family's (Beaverbrook) newspapers, the *Evening Standard*. He wrote a series (Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out) on the San Francisco flower children. He had already written two books. One, *The Young Meteors*, was about Swinging London whizzkids, most of whom meteor-like soon burnt out, later to be extolled for Where-are-they-now features. It was assumed he would take over the Beaverbrook empire, seize a safe Tory seat and rise effortlessly to the Establishment stratosphere.

In the event his career has not run on oiled wheels. He had to resign his candidacy at safe Thirsk and Malton over the Secrets trial. And when he did get into Parliament, for Thanet East in 1974, he was ignored and overlooked by Margaret Thatcher. Something to do with his romance with her

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



daughter Carol? "Newspapers often say this. But I can think of a dozen good reasons why any prime minister might not give me a job. I'm very lucky that one has," he says. "This place is full of people who are anything from very to fairly good, who have not been preferred. I have always been a happy politician. There are great compensations in not being a highly successful person."

When Mr Nixon faced a political desert in 1960, John Kennedy (friendlier to Mr Nixon, as this book demonstrates, than anyone supposed) advised him to write a book, saying: "There's something about being an author which really builds up the reputation of a political figure." But not since Roy Jenkins published his life of Asquith while at Number 11 has a serving minister brought forth a political biography, and the Nixon book, trickiest of subjects, is extraordinarily riveting: fascinating on his childhood and forthright about the ignominious Watergate episode after which all future scandals — down to "Camillagate" — are so ludicrously named.

He would not say he likes Mr Nixon. "I think Nixon is too deep and complicated for a simple emotion like liking. I certainly get on well with him, but in the end I am fascinated by his depth and complexity as a character and I have enjoyed my long voyage around this monument of modern political history: it was like tackling Mount Everest."

His one scoop was to unearth Mr Nixon's former fiancée, now tucked away in Arizona. Through the *Yellow Pages* he located Ola Florence — and there in a casket were all the letters she had received from young Dick.

"I wish to apologise for the cad-

dish way I acted Saturday evening..." "I've tried to figure out why I'm so cracked about you..." "I write to you not to pour forth a heart filled with love but only because I wish to write a letter to a girl and you seem to be the only one around right at the moment." Mr Nixon will not be overjoyed to have these immature letters printed, he thinks. "He really does dislike talking about personal things." However, it was all long ago. Mr Nixon is entering his ninth decade, and as Andre Malraux said when briefing Mr Nixon about meeting Chairman Mao: "He is acting out the last act of his lifetime..." in truth he is addressing Death.

The story of Alger Hiss, the American diplomat jailed in 1948 for spying, at the height of McCarthy witch-hunts, reads like a detective thriller. Mr Nixon was the chief prosecution lawyer. "One Saturday," Mr Aitken said, "I had run out of ripping yarns so I told my children (twins Victoria and Alexandra, and son William) the Hiss story and they were absolutely captivated. William was so impressed and excited by it he wrote asking for Mr Nixon's autograph and invited him to tea."

William is named after Mr Aitken's father, the Tory MP Sir William, about whom his great-uncle Lord Beaverbrook told young Jonathan: "Your father is a good man, but a dull one. You must make mischief." Apart from this advice Beaverbrook was not much help. Six months before he died he told him: "You're a very bright boy with a very bright future. I'm going to pay you the greatest compliment — I'm not going to leave you a cent."

So the young Aitken forsook journalism — a great loss to journalism — for moneybags: he ran Slater Walker's head of operations in the Gulf, and later founded, with his cousin Tim, the merchant bank of Aitken Hume. He regards their TV-AM period as "one of life's exciting but essentially minor episodes". Even after his unforgettable review of Anna Ford's book on *Men* ("Anna Ford is full of surprises," he wrote wily, "and *Men* is one of them") the two have now "more or less made up".

A few years of eligible bachelorhood he was smitten at 37 by the bubbly (his word) Lolita. "We were introduced one night over drinks. I was having a busy parliamentary evening whizzing between votes. I asked her to meet me afterwards at Annabel's at 11.30. And as we stepped onto the dance floor after an acquaintance of 15 minutes, she said, 'I'd like you to know that you're the man I'm going to marry.' I said 'Don't be ridiculous,' but she has antennae. That is one of her many charms."

Having run a merchant bank for 20 years, he says, he would have to be pretty useless not to be comfortably rich, but declares he is quite unmaterialistic. "If I were I wouldn't be here, (he had to renounce his chairmanship to become a minister) or writing books."

He has changed his mind in recent years about legalising cannabis. It was different when you could be sent to prison if your lodger had a small quantity of pot on the premises. "But legalising it just sends the wrong signals to the younger generation. I think you need the equivalent of a parking fine — like the laws on drinking in unlicensed places — to send a



Such irony: in his obituary, Jonathan Aitken says, more space will be devoted to Anna Ford and the white wine than to his ministerial post

message that society does not approve or condone messing around with harmful substances."

At 50 he has hardly aged: lean from marathon running and burnished bronze from jogging in high winds. He lives in Westminster, two minutes from the Commons, is a churchwarden at St Margaret's, and holidays in Sandwich Bay, preferring not to travel except to Scotland. "I like wildernesses. I like to wander lonely as a cloud."

When the Nixons were in London recently Mr Aitken gave a dinner. "Nixon held us spellbound with a tour d'horizon, chiefly about Russia. He said Yeltsin is in mortal peril, but Yeltsin is our best friend and anyone who replaces him will be worse, in the race between the new democracies and the old despots in new clothes."

In his childhood, everyone thought his younger sister, the

actress Maria, was the cleverer one. Jonathan was somewhat delicate: he had TB, and might never have walked; he writes very movingly about the deaths of Mr Nixon's brothers from TB. "As adults Maria and I still argue about who lorded it over whom, her with her ultra sharp wit and faster brain, or me with my lofty aloofness. We also argue about who is the real actor and who is the politician. But we are friends through thick and thin, who always turn to each other at times of turmoil." He took one of Mr Nixon's daughter, Julie, to see Maria's bravura performance in *Hay Fever* at the Albery.

His own minicirc tour de force was during Sir Geoffrey Howe's resignation speech, when Mr Aitken happened to be sitting directly behind him.

"I sometimes think my most memorable contribution to the

20th century is my grimaces. It was still early days for televising Parliament, and I was not up to speed on what is called doughnutting, sitting around the people speaking. And — warts and disappointments and all — I have always had a profound admiration for Mrs Thatcher, not always reciprocated; but particularly when the going was roughest and she was embattled. As Beaverbrook said of Churchill, 'Churchill on the top of the wave has in him the stuff of which tyrants are made': she could be tyrannical and wildly overbearing, for example over *Spycatcher* and the poll tax, and I was against much that she did. I was a great critic of Europe when she was all for it."

"But when Geoffrey launched into his attack, I suddenly saw that she was down far enough for a really brutal series of kicks below the belt to wound her mortally. By

the time he was halfway through, real pain showed on my face. I campaigned for her in the leadership election because I think, like Nixon, she is built of the stuff of which heroes are made."

In a graphic episode, Mr Aitken tells how Mr Nixon came to London after his resignation in 1978. He asked Mr Aitken to arrange meetings with everyone from the Queen downwards, and Mr Speaker, George Thomas, planned a Commons reception. But Mr Nixon was *persona non grata* to the Foreign Office, and it seemed impossible to muster a quorum of MPs. A desperate Mr Aitken ran into Mrs Thatcher in a Commons corridor. "I would be absolutely delighted to meet President Nixon," she said as she bustled past — and saved the day. "The bigger the issue," he says, "the stronger she is."

A 90-year-old New York Jew has been singled out to lead his race into the promised land

Jews are not exactly short of a few problems. Now, however, they are engaged in one that could be said to have been brooding for two thousand years — but is finally being centred around a sick, bearded nonagenarian living in Brooklyn.

Posters are going up all over Israel declaring that Rabbi Menahem Mendel Schneersohn, leader or "rebbe" of the Lubavitch Hassidic sect, is the Messiah. Loudspeakers in a Lubavitch village near Tel Aviv give details of the health of "King Messiah".

The main Lubavitch movement — established in tsarist Russia early in the 19th century — is officially holding fire on the issue both at its Brooklyn headquarters and at its London outpost, although rabbis have started telling their congregations in Britain they have no doubt about Schneersohn being messianic.

Rabbi Schneersohn has an engineering degree from the Sorbonne in Paris and is regarded even outside Lubavitch as one of the great Jewish scholars of the century. He suffered a stroke last year, which left him without either speech or the ability to walk unaided. But declarations are still issued periodically from his headquarters in Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, on matters ranging from the necessity

Brooklyn's Messiah

for Jewish women to light Sabbath candles to the prohibition against Israel giving up any part of the West Bank.

Not only regarded as saintly by his own followers, he is also courted by world leaders. It would have been unthinkable for Bill Clinton not to have attended a Lubavitch rally during his election campaign. Had the rebbe been in better health, the candidate would have moved his own idea of heaven and earth to be photographed shaking his hand. Both Democrats and Republicans believe that a picture with Schneersohn guarantees a Jewish vote, even from Jews who eat pork and ride to work on Yom Kippur.

In Britain Lubavitch have been sticking signs on the back windows of their cars proclaiming "We want Moshiah (Messiah) now".

It is not a new phenomenon, but it is the first time in perhaps 300 years that the idea has been taken quite so seriously. The former Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, sees the warning signs. "I have always been greatly alarmed by any attempts at heralding a messiah," he says. "It has always brought catastrophe in



Jakobovits: sees danger

the past. If you feel sure that something is going to happen and that the Messiah is already here or just around the corner, people get reckless and think they can afford to take risks — particularly with Israel," he says. "Lubavitch wanted Israel to go into Lebanon all the way to Damascus. In the Yom Kippur war, they wanted to go to Cairo. Just imagine what occupying an Arab capital would have done to the Arabs and to world opinion."

The movement's London

head, Rabbi Feivish Vogel, takes issue on that. "The well-publicised views of the rebbe were made exclusively on Jewish-legal grounds," he says. "The effect of artificially merging the two issues can only result in an undermining of Jewish faith in the Messiah."

Lubavitch has only a few hundred thousand members, but its influence is tremendous. Every Lubavitch member will accept a declaration about Schneersohn with alacrity. That is beyond question. It is equally beyond question that no one else will. No Hassidic sect will bow down to Lubavitch's leader. Other Jews see Lubavitch as missionaries — a charge they have never denied, although they do not seek to convert non-Jews.

Schneersohn refuses to go to Israel, a decision that has its roots in the messianic movement that is now embracing his name. The reason thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews will not recognise the modern state of Israel is, they say, because it is not based on religious law. Tradition has it that the real messiah will personally lead all Jews into the promised land.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe, as

he is known, has always come from the Schneersohn family. But because the current holder of the office is childless, the dynasty is under threat. That in itself requires a few acts of faith. His followers maintain that if God had intended the rebbe to die, he would have made provision for a successor. Since he did not do so, it was not surprising Schneersohn survived both his stroke and a gall-bladder operation a few months after his 90th birthday. On the other hand, if he does die, there has to be a purpose in that too — it will enable him to keep watch on his flock from above.

As Rabbi Hugo Gryn, one of the leaders of Reform Judaism in Britain, puts it: "The most remarkable thing about Judaism is that its ultimate aim is to go out of business — because when the Messiah comes he will bring universal peace and the resurrection of the dead."

Every day, the religious Jew says in his prayers: "I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and though he may tarry I wait daily for his coming." The big question seems to be: how much more tarrying is left?

MICHAEL FREEDLAND

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TOMORROW

London is the eating-out capital of the world. Sir Terence Conran says so and, to prove it, on St Valentine's weekend he opens the city's largest, most glamorous brasserie. Robin Young reports in *Weekend*

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Janet Daley



■ Ordinary people are held in contempt by a governing class that always wants a cover-up

Why is Britain never happier than when it is at war? Certainly battle brings out the famous national virtues of courage, gallantry and good fellowship. But there is a less flattering explanation: war provides an excuse for the secrecy, suppression of information and duplicity which the British adore. While other nations chafe at restrictions on their candour, the British are simply licensed to behave in the uncommunicative way which they find most congenial. Indeed, the fog of war may be said to be their natural element.

Disinformation — never saying what you mean — being the usual currency of social life, Britain throws itself with gusto into the propaganda and espionage business. What is more, war gives a plausible reason for accepting authority. Questioning the right of those at the top to ration goods, favours, and, above all, information becomes not merely impertinent, but treasonable. Censorship and the manipulation of reality is considered necessary not only for national security but for the maintenance of morale. Thus the truth may be withheld or distorted in good conscience.

Among the governing classes at the moment, there are many expressing a desire for such a condition to be permanent. The Calcutt proposals would place constraints on the media which would not even have the wartime virtue of a clear-cut sense of national good. They suggest controls on whole categories of information to be defined not by their content or even their importance but only by their method of accumulation. So a titillating and malicious piece of gossip could be published so long as it was not gathered by a technically intrusive method like electronic bugging. But damaging information about a cabinet minister's past business dealings could be impounded if it was acquired by invading his privacy, even if that was the only conceivable way such information could be acquired.

Civil prosecutions could be brought in the same way as libel actions: the rich and powerful would be able to prohibit newspapers, from printing information until the court reached its verdict. The defence of "public interest", intended to prevent the stifling of genuinely important facts, would be subject to the whim of juries just as libel defences now are.

The mentality which sees this state of affairs as desirable is perfectly encapsulated in Sir David Calcutt's own ponderous description of the sense in which public officials must regard themselves as having (only very slightly) less right to privacy than private individuals: "I conclude that while *prima*

Supporting monarchy is now more important than truth

face everyone is entitled to protection of their privacy those persons discharging public functions must be prepared to accept the level of that protection to be reduced to the extent, but only to the extent, that it is necessary for the public to be informed about matters directly affecting the discharge of their public functions."

Sir David has presumably decided, with no-nonsense, wartime tidy-mindedness, that what constitutes a matter "directly affecting" the functioning of a public official is a cut-and-dried matter. He seems even to dismiss the very lively public debate about whether a politician's private life is relevant to his fitness for office. Perhaps Sir David finds this controversy unworthy, and has therefore ruled it out of court. But who is he, with the greatest respect, to decide that this debate, which many people take very seriously indeed, is not fit for consideration? Why, he is that venerable national figure the roan with a right to decide what we are entitled to know.

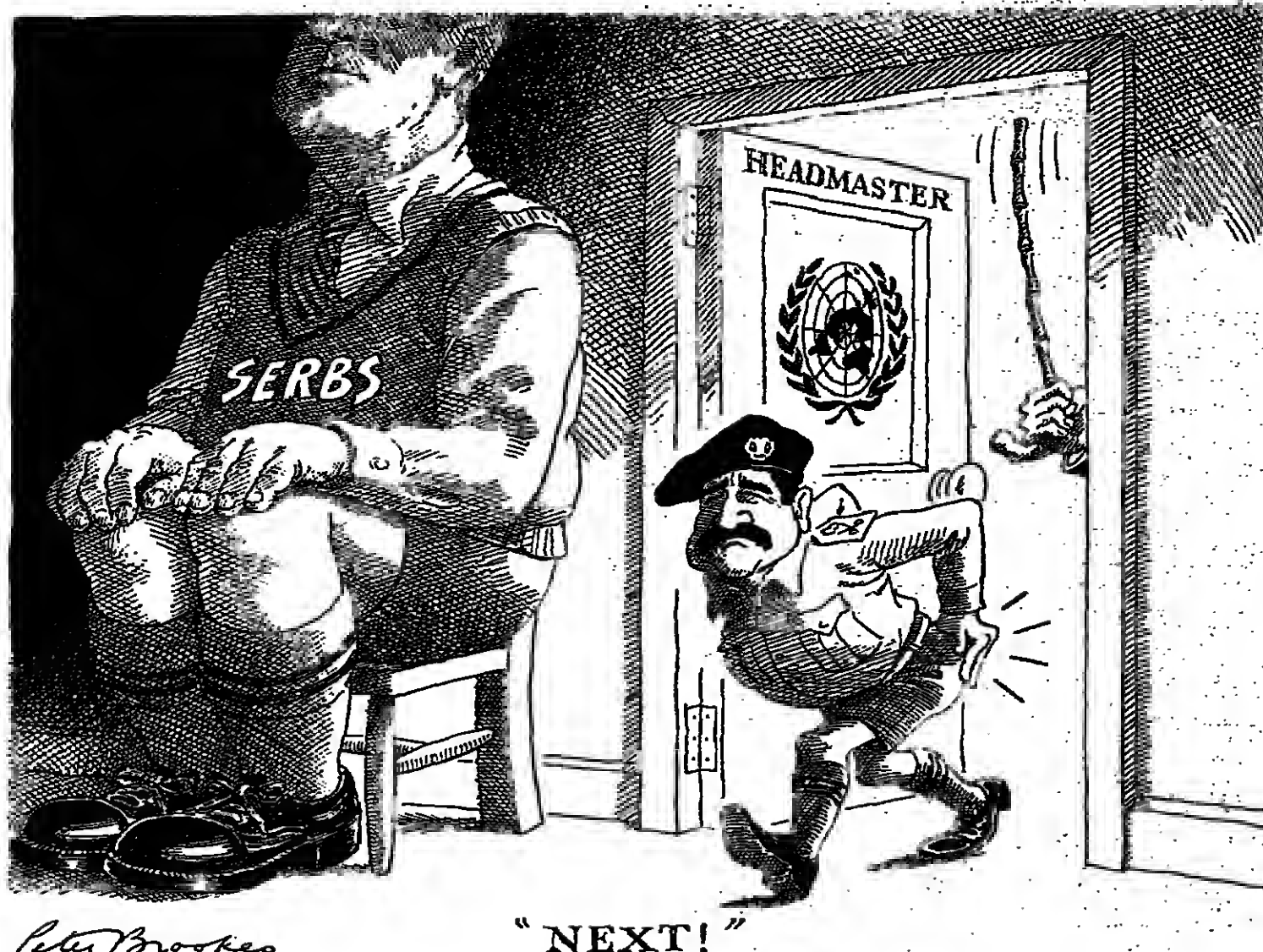
No one has an automatic right to know anything at all, as things stand. The argument, as currently conducted, is about who decides what access there should be to the store of knowledge which exists in the world.

The contempt in which ordinary people are held was illuminated this week by the revelation of what really happened during the summer of royal scandal stories. Buckingham Palace misled the Press Complaints Commission into thinking that the royals were victims rather than conspirators. The PCC's chairman then misled the nation into thinking the press was wilfully tormenting the royal family.

Afterwards, they all apologised to each other. But nobody apologised to the people. Or even explained to them that they had been fed a distorted picture of events.

The latest charade is over a smutty telephone transcript which the British very nearly became the only people in the northern hemisphere not to have seen. What knowledge would they gain from it, after all? Only that the heir to the throne uses a level of sexual banter which most of us outgrow at 14.

What is more important is that supporting monarchy has come to be synonymous with a preference for dissimulation over truth, for discreet cover-up over respect for ordinary people's intelligence. It has only come to be identified with those things because of the ill-judged loyalty of some of its apologists and by those who prefer, for their own reasons, to cede control to an arrogant coterie of insiders.



A King-size disaster

British Airways should hang its head in shame for its dirty tricks campaign

Here's a heartening phenomenon: everywhere, there goes up a hearty cheer, a shout of pleasure, an exhalation of happiness, and these manifestations say with one voice: "Branson!"

I have no connection with him; only once have I flown with his airline (though I noticed that he came to see the flight off), but I instinctively warm to him, as I find, practically everybody does.

It is not very difficult to understand the reasons. First, he is a freebooter, a daredevil, a man who has made good with his own money, his own ingenuity, his own push. Second, he has notoriously large thumbs: this comes entirely from his habit of putting them to his nose whenever the received wisdom tells him that what he is doing is certain to fail. Third, he blows his success in a way that does not excite envy; he is so unfazed, so merry, so plainly having the time of his life, that nobody sneers, nobody is affronted by his ubiquitous self-promotion, and certainly nobody mutters "I could have done all that if I had been given the chance."

What a dash he would have out at the court of Elizabeth II! Drake and Howard and Hawkins would have welcomed him as a brother buccaner, and I would not be surprised to hear, in the alehouse gossip, that the Virgin Queen had succumbed to another kind of Virgin. Nor do we have to imagine triumphs from bygone centuries; did he not sail across the Atlantic and in doing so break the record for the crossing by ship? And when he had done that, did he sit down and weep like Alexander, because there were no more worlds to conquer? No, he then crossed it by hot-air balloon; one of these days we shall wake up to find that he has done it on water-skis.

Arnold Bennett's *The Card* was devoted to the cause of cheering everybody up. Branson has done the Card's mantle, while still making himself a millionaire many times over. Good luck to him, and bad cess to his enemies.

Which brings me, of course, to the astounding events which took place in the High Court on Monday.

We live in a scary world, no doubt of it. Leave out the killings and bombings, the robbing and swindling, the brutality and rage, the hatred and indifference; just concentrate for a moment on the multitude

of lesser rottennesses: the cheating, the lying, the mocking of decency, the doing dirt on anything clean, the pygmies who strut their stuff and the runts who ape real men, the dogs who return to their vomit.

Responsibility is the clue to it all, surely. Consider: poor David Mellor had to resign for a reason no more significant than that he sucked forbidden toes. Sir Nicholas Lyell (will somebody please explain the extraordinary fact that every attorney-general — there is no known exception — is worse than the one before?) not only leapt to organise the government's Matrix-Churchill cover-up, which, it is true, is his job, and to all practical intents his only job, but had the impudence to write an immense letter to *The Times* proving, to his own satisfaction but happily to nobody else's, that there wasn't a cover-up at all, yet he still holds his post and never an illicit toe has he ever sucked. And as for the cabinet ministers who have covered up only their own ineptitude, they probably still don't understand why anybody thinks they ought to resign.

But if that sorry state of affairs is now rapidly rotting away the foundations of our parliamentary system, with the corruption of the principle of independent responsibility, what shall we think of our private commercial institutions in the light of the Branson and British Airways affair?

As I started through the accounts of the libel proceedings, I expected my reaction to be one of great hilarity; after all, here is our splendid ruffian not just humiliating Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall, but taking much more than half a million smackers in libel damages, another two or three million in costs, and a wonderfully grovelling apology which everybody knows was the price paid for the alternative, which was having King, Marshall, Burnside, Basham and the rest in the witness box with Gorgeous George ripping them to pieces.

But I stopped laughing very soon. The airline business is, of course, as notorious for poaching customers

from other companies as for gangling up with other countries to keep the price of flying just short of the point when the customers start walking. But the nature of the swiftness in British Airways, revealed in the court proceedings, is something more, and more dreadful. Lord King (perhaps he has begun to believe he is a king, and if so, I wouldn't be surprised to learn that he thinks he is the Lord as well) set out, as many a captain of industry has done, to preach competition most earnestly but to ensure by all available means, honest or otherwise, that no shred of competition should come near his operations.

Thus was Sir Freddie Laker done down; perhaps there should be an investigation to see whether he was done down in the ordinary way of ruthlessness or

worse. Meanwhile, Lord King presided over an enterprise that would have had the Mafia saluting, while his fether and carrier, Sir Colin Marshall, trotted behind him. Neither of them, incidentally, trotted as far as the High Court; both of them had run away from the hearing, and to their cowardice they added something very considerably worse. Johnson's words come in handy here, "the last refuge of a scoundrel". For it was claimed on behalf of them that BA's directors "were not party to any concerted campaign against Richard Branson and Virgin Atlantic". (So presumably underlings had done the libelling, and as far as I can see there is nothing to stop them insisting that they were most frightfully shocked when the libels were discovered, and they may even sack a few little fish, just to prove it.)

Nor is that my fantasy; in Wednesday's *Times* there was an item from our Air Correspondent, Harvey Elliott, which went like this: "A shattered and demoralised British Airways management yesterday began an internal enquiry aimed at weeding out those responsible for the airline's most damaging and costly public relations disaster... The public relations staff are not regarded as among those most culpable and

will retain their jobs... Sir Colin Marshall... has told staff none will be disciplined, but several people are expected to move to less sensitive posts or to take early retirement."

Meanwhile, Sir Colin Marshall is — unless he is stopped — going to become chairman of British Airways, when Lord King retires from the post. The obvious question is: do we want an airline with our country's name on it, even though privatised, in which such things can and do happen, and in which one of the two villains is allowed to retire in honour, while the other smirks his way into the vacated chair?

Well, do we?

For we come back, of course, to the decline of responsibility. Let us suppose (heaven knows there are a thousand possible scenarios this) we can construct out of the rubble that neither King nor Marshall knew anything at all about the "dirty tricks"; let us suppose that those who did know had not had, from on high, so much as a nod or a wink; let us suppose that, when Branson said plainly that there was crookedness about, Marshall in his reply really believed that he was telling the truth in saying that nothing untoward had happened; let us suppose that when Mr Basham (public relations adviser to BA) said, after the court proceedings, that he had acted at all times with the approval and knowledge of Lord King and the rest of the board, King and Marshall suddenly realised that they must earlier have been struck temporarily deaf while Mr Basham was talking to them; let us suppose all this and anything even more weird you can think of: there still remains — does there not? — the question of taking responsibility.

To put it as plainly as it can be put: why did not King and Marshall, immediately after the High Court settlement, announce that they were resigning from their posts and leaving the company? They will not answer that question, so I shall answer it for them. It is because responsibility in high public places has been silently abandoned, over the years, and no one — certainly not this prize pair — has demanded its restoration, nor has anyone acted as though it had been restored, by publicly taking such responsibility.

I suppose that the prize pair would say that they couldn't leave now, because what would become of BA? Simple: give it Branson.

Europe needs a mandate

Robert Blake on the campaign for a referendum

The Campaign for a British Referendum, which is to stage a peaceful demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, is not simply an anti-Maastricht move, as its opponents claim. No doubt many of those who support it are in fact against the treaty. But there is no inconsistency in being both pro-Maastricht and pro-referendum. This is my own position. Subject to seeing the exact details of the treaty after it goes through Parliament (if it does), I would probably vote in favour if there was a referendum.

The real point at issue is whether a government is morally justified in making a major constitutional change without putting the question to the popular vote. The word "morally" must be emphasised. Legally Parliament is sovereign. Its decisions cannot be questioned in court. "The Queen in Parliament" can enact anything. What this means in practice is that the majority in the House of Commons can pass whatever it wishes into law. The royal veto is as dead as Queen Anne who was the last monarch to exercise it. The House of Lords can delay a measure for a few months and can also amend it, which they might possibly do over Maastricht. But the will of the Commons if insisted upon prevails in either case. The result is that a government with a minuscule majority can push through the most sweeping legislation. As Disraeli said "one is enough".

Such enormous power in the hands of a single elected chamber is only paralleled in New Zealand and Israel. In the world's main democracies there are nearly always some special provisions about constitutional change. The American Congress, French National Assembly and the Federal German Bundestag cannot carry out constitutional change by simple majority.

Both the government and the leaders of the opposition will argue that the general election last April has given them a mandate for Maastricht, therefore there is no need for a referendum. The opinion of the nation, they will say, has already been sounded, and all the major parties were, in favour of the treaty. The answer to this is that a general election, hardly ever focuses on a single issue. And since the three parties were pro-Maastricht, voters who were anti had no means of expressing themselves.

Another argument used against the referendum is that it derogates from the sovereignty of Parliament. In one sense that cannot be correct. A referendum can only be held by an act of Parliament, which is an expression of that very sovereignty. If the criticism simply means that Parliament loses its dignity and prestige in some way by consenting to leave certain issues to a popular vote the answer is "so what?". The prestige of Parliament is fairly low anyway. It is hardly like to be made lower by agreeing to accept a democratic verdict on constitutional changes which are not only very important but would also in practice be virtually irreversible. There may well be a good case for making irreversible changes, but surely the nation has a right to be consulted first?

It is not as if a referendum would be a startling innovation. The Conservatives would have had one on tariff reform in 1910 if they had won the election of that autumn. Baldwin seriously considered the same course in 1930. Harold Wilson promised and held a referendum in 1975 on the renegotiated terms for staying in the Common Market. He got an emphatic Yes vote. His motive was not solely devotion to democracy. It was also a ploy to keep the parliamentary Labour party united, but there was nothing disreputable about that. Mr Major might be well advised to consider a similar promise today. It would go a long way towards preventing party strife which may yet be very damaging. The device of a referendum has also been employed in connection with the constitutional status of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. In all these cases the underlying reasons were the same. Big changes in national or regional government ought not to be made unless the people concerned really want them.

The feeblest argument used against a referendum is that it cannot be worded in a way that makes the options clear. If Denmark, Ireland and France have each managed to hold a referendum on Maastricht, in which their citizens appear to have been perfectly well aware of what they were voting about, surely it cannot be beyond the wit of British politicians to achieve the same. Why does the government refuse? The trouble about elections, Stalin is supposed to have said, is that one cannot be sure of the result. A referendum could go the wrong way for Mr Major. I do not believe it would, whatever opinion polls may say. But if Maastricht is defeated, so be it. That is not the end of the world. The British public would have given their verdict as they are entitled to do.

Lord Blake, historian of the Conservative Party, is president of the Campaign for a British Referendum.

Forgan's agenda

ONLY two weeks before Liz Forgan takes over as managing director of BBC Radio 4's annual staff meeting has been postponed. Officially, the BBC says it is because its audience research figures have been delayed.

Unofficially, staff at Broadcasting House suspect that Michael Green, the controller of Radio 4, wants to speak to Forgan first to find out what plans she might have for the station. That would explain why the meeting, originally scheduled for next Friday, will now take place on February 4, four days after Forgan's arrival.

Not that anyone is expecting her to abolish *The Archers*. But as the former director of programmes at Channel 4, Forgan is not expected to waste much time in putting her stamp on the BBC's radio output. Forgan's close colleagues also expect it to emerge swiftly that she has not settled for second best by accepting the radio job, rather than the one she was widely expected to — deputy director-general to John Birt. That post went to Bob Phillips, currently chief executive of Independent Television News.

The key to Forgan's future is that her radio role will be combined

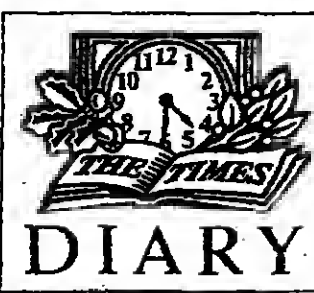
with a review of all BBC radio and television output, carried out jointly with Alan Yentob, controller of BBC 2. When that is completed in a year or so's time, Forgan will be splendidly equipped for the job that must have tempted her to leave Channel 4.

One former senior BBC figure says: "I think Liz is smiling. Her dual role gives her and John Birt infinite manoeuvrability. The review will give her a comprehensive overview of all that goes on. When it is over Liz will be given a new and grand role heading up both radio and television commissioning. Liz Forgan will, after all, become the most powerful person after John Birt. She wouldn't have gone otherwise."

The few's statue

THE debate over Winston Churchill's wartime role is making Battle of Britain survivors even more determined to erect a permanent memorial to those who participated in the decisive campaign.

According to trustees of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, there is as yet no major memorial, a situation they intend to right by



erecting, on the white cliffs of Dover near Capel le Ferne, a 10ft statue of a young fighter pilot looking out to sea. The statue, which will be carved out of light blue Dorset granite, will stand on a platform decorated with the crests of the 66 RAF squadrons.

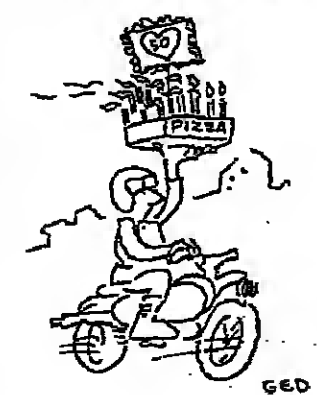
The trustees, who include Lord Tebbit, a former pilot, Robin Leigh-Pemberton, governor of the Bank of England, and Lord Craig of Radley, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, hope it will be unveiled by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother on July 9. They intend to invite members of the Churchill family. David Proudlove, one of the trustees, who flew Spitfires in the war, says he hopes the memorial will redress the brouhaha over Churchill's role. "I am increasingly aware of the lack of knowledge among our citizens about a short

period in our history when the very existence of our nation was in grave jeopardy. I hope we can ensure that those friends and citizens who fell in the Battle of Britain did not die in vain."

Wing Commander Geoffrey Page, chairman of the trustees and a Battle of Britain pilot, says: "I've read the headlines. I don't know where we'd be if we'd made peace with Hitler, probably behind barbed wire or dead. Anyone with a tinge of common sense knows that Hitler, like Saddam Hussein, was not a man one could trust."

Party labour

NORMAN Lamont, a man who knows how to party, threw a char-



Wife of baths

Although she lives in some considerable style in a Mayfair home with marble floors, Josephine Hart, novelist and adoring wife of Maurice Saatchi, is quite in tune with the new mood of 1990s austerity.

No, she hasn't cut back on the white orchids or the three-a-day bath habit that earned her the nickname Josephine of the Unguent. But she has acknowledged, Pandora Maxwell style, that money isn't everything. In the February edition of *Harpers & Queens*, Hart describes her lavish abode as reflecting her husband. "If I lost it all, it wouldn't bother me. I began in 1964 sharing with three girls in Holland Park and I could go back to that easily enough." Given the current state of the advertising industry, one can only hope her husband is as flexible. Still, there must be worse ways of coping with the recession.

This time it's the advice bureau. If it does not go on too late we might slip away for a meal out. If not it will be a take-away at home."

The contrast with Labour's deputy leader, Margaret Beckett, could not be starker. Beckett will be 50 today and she will be lucky to get a carry-over, never mind karaoke. Her husband Leo says: "In all the time we have been married Margaret's birthday and my birthday have coincided with either a Labour party general election or one of our fortnightly advice bureaux at our Derby constituency."

describes her lavish abode as reflecting her husband. "If I lost it all, it wouldn't bother me. I began in 1964 sharing with three girls in Holland Park and I could go back to that easily enough." Given the current state of the advertising industry, one can only hope her husband is as flexible. Still, there must be worse ways of coping with the recession.

The 62 employees facing the axe at Tory Central Office, where the deficit has spiralled to £17.5 million, have been given a new nickname: *The Baker's Dozens*. This apparently refers to the fact that not only was the party £5 million overspent in both 1991 and 1992, when it was on general election alert, but also in 1990, when it was not. Who was chairman in 1990? Kenneth Baker.

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PERILS FOR THE PRESS

The Calcutt report risks great dangers for modest gains

Sir David Calcutt concludes his second report on the regulation of the press with a resonant declaration of good intent. "My recommendations", he says, "are designed to make a positive contribution to the development of the highest standards of journalism". He continues in the manner of a father saving his children from themselves, anxious "to enable the press to operate freely and responsibly and to give it the backing which is needed, in a fiercely competitive market, to resist the wildest excesses".

Sir David is, by his own admission, a well-meaning man. It is hard to disagree with the goals of higher standards, responsibility and moderation. Good intentions do not necessarily pave the way to public good. The identity of the intended is of no small importance. A free press is charged by society with the duty of examining, exposing and even urging the expulsion of governments from office. If improvements in behaviour are imposed by government, following advice from a government-appointed lawyer, it is reasonable to wonder who is benefiting whom.

In order to protect the press from its own worst instincts Sir David proposes a new tribunal with legal powers to punish editorial error and compel editorial retraction. "Provided that (press) freedom is exercised responsibly there will be no loss" he writes with chilling good will. The Heritage Secretary, Peter Brooke, said yesterday that he was reluctant to appoint such a body. He did not, however, say categorically that the government would not do so. That task is left to the uncatchable winds and unaccountable words that blow from lobby press offices.

If the government were to change its intentions and follow Sir David's advice, it would doubtless first appoint a tribunal chief of famous fairness of mind, a man or woman to whose personal probity none could object. Nobody could, however, guarantee the character of future appointees, nor that such a tribunal, if appointed, would not increase its reach over future years. There remains an atmosphere of press intimidation at Westminster. As debates continue over Clive Soley's bill, with its own proposals for a statutory body to instruct editors in what is correct, the bad air seems unlikely to be soon dissipated.

This second Calcutt report, hurriedly introduced to parliament after a week of semi-official disclosure, is alarming in many specific ways. It dismisses with contemptuous haste the work of the Press Complaints Commission, a young and wholly voluntary system of improving press behaviour. The PCC is not perfect, but its findings are treated with true seriousness by newspaper editors. There are good arguments, in the best tradition of developing British institutions, for its membership to be modified and its powers increased. But when Sir David

sees "no realistic possibility" of improvement he sees only with the most blinkered gaze.

One new element of the report, which follows the earlier report of his committee on Privacy and Related Matters in 1990, is Sir David's shift in favour of new laws to protect the privacy of citizens. He acknowledges the practical difficulties, many of them raised 20 years ago by the Younger Committee, but argues that the government should examine again the options for creating a new civil tort. It must be hoped that the examiners do not forget this week's disclosures about the Princess of Wales's role in organising the "invasions" of her own privacy. They might also question the wisdom of extending to the richer members of our society the same unfair protection that they now receive from the laws of libel.

The report proposes curbs on the use of certain lenses and electronic devices. There is clearly scope now to amend the laws covering all citizens' use of modern aids to intrusion. It would be wrong, however, to produce laws that could discriminate against those searching for information that could be published. Moreover the opportunities for a defence based on the public interest seem as narrow as the restrictions are broad.

The tone of the report ranges between the supercilious and the hostile. In that respect it is certainly a document of its time. Although the extent of popular dissatisfaction is exaggerated, today's press is not perceived as behaving well. Since an important justification for a free press is that it produces desirable ends — democratic institutions, better government, general benefits for society as a whole — it is reasonable for critics to ask whether the people see those benefits and whether they welcome the freedom that the press helps to protect. If newspapers are unpopular, that very fact can be held somehow to undermine the press, opening up opportunities for men like Sir David to charge into the fray, like some publicity or marketing consultant, and improve us for our own long-term good.

It is unfortunate that the debate about a free press in Britain, unlike that in America, centres so much on the good that comes from it. In Britain it is an unusual notion that freedom of expression, independently of its effects, is an essential part of a just society. Thus, with the vices of newspapers so clear and their virtues so clouded by popular complacency, the press is today struggling.

Ahead of us, as outlined by the report, is a system of control whose implications would be felt long after the Princess of Wales has become a grandmother and David Mellor is forgotten. Sir David Calcutt denies that he intends any such repressive effect. Mr Brooke denies enthusiasm for its imposition. But the sights of both men are set on current problems and not on the continuity of press freedoms, many of them hard won only 150 years ago and still shallowly rooted.

TO THE AID OF IRAQIS

Saddam's wretched subjects need more effective protection

America, Britain and France cite UN resolution 688, passed in April 1991, as the legal basis for the air exclusion zones imposed in northern and southern Iraq for Wednesday's punitive strike. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, endorsed this view yesterday, confirming that Iraq had violated UN resolutions and that the three countries had the mandate of the UN Security Council to carry out the raid.

Iraq vows to continue flights in the zones and to deploy its forces there. There is a serious risk that President Saddam Hussein will take his revenge for the raids against the Kurds and Shias whom these zones were designed to protect. If the coalition's motives are to be respected and understood by Iraqis — and by Arabs who ask why precision bombing is deemed feasible against Iraqi missiles but not against the Serb artillery pounding Bosnian Muslims — the air strike must be seen not only to assure the safety of allied aircraft patrolling the skies of the no-fly zones. It must also bring greater security to Iraqi citizens on the ground below.

This was the humanitarian purpose of resolution 688. Breaking new ground in international law, it asserted the international community's right to intervene against intolerable persecution by a government of its own subjects. A brief reference to its terms measures how far Iraq is from complying. Issued in horrified response to Saddam's brutal suppression of the Kurdish and Shia uprisings after the Gulf ceasefire, it demanded that the Iraqi government respect "the human and political rights of all Iraqi citizens". The UN secretary-general was instructed to address "the critical needs of the refugees and displaced Iraqi people". Iraq was ordered to co-operate with him, giving immediate access by international humanitarian organisations to people in need in all parts of Iraq.

In the north, the Kurds have won a genuine measure of protection, thanks to the combination of the "safe haven" concept and the no-fly zone. But the early effectiveness of Operation Provide Comfort has not been maintained since the coalition's troops handed over to UN guards. Baghdad's economic blockade of the north aims to starve the Kurds into submission. To frustrate UN relief efforts, Iraq refused to renew visas for UN guards and international aid workers between June and October, reducing their number from around 1,000 to less than 200.

The UN continued to try negotiation and in November, under a fresh memorandum

of understanding with Baghdad its convoys started to move an urgently needed 33,000 tons of food and fuel into northern Iraq. Saddam's saboteurs planted bombs on the lorries and the UN suspended operations. Last month, emboldened by the West's muted response, Saddam boasted that he was now ready to crush the Kurds militarily.

Even grimmer is the situation in Iraq's southern marshes. The no-fly zone there was imposed last August, but mass arrests and executions have continued, as have military operations including artillery bombardments of Shia villages. Aid and international relief efforts, always weak in the south, have dwindled to nothing. In October, the UN incomprehensibly accepted Baghdad's veto on access to the south by UN personnel.

Expecting Saddam to succour the marsh Arabs is like leaving the protection of the Jews to Hitler. In theory, the UN should not need to negotiate access to alleviate suffering in any part of Iraq: resolution 688 is legally binding on Baghdad. But lightly armed UN guards are no match for Saddam's troops, although if they were present in greater force they would be able to prevent covert action by saboteurs.

The security council enunciated an important principle in resolution 688. For the sake of that principle, and for large numbers of civilians seriously at risk, it must now decide what further measures are needed to compel Baghdad to comply.

In the north, Baghdad should be told to remove its forces from a checkpoint straddling the main supply route from Turkey into northern Iraq, Turkey, which values its influence with the Iraqi Kurdish leaders, might then be willing to help protect UN convoys. South of the 32nd parallel, America, Britain and France should repeat their ultimatum of last April to Baghdad to stop all military action. To make sure this time, Saddam must be required on pain of aerial bombardment to withdraw his divisions.

That would create a safe haven to match that in the north. Since the only thing that can be taken on trust about Saddam is his determination to liquidate his internal enemies, such enclaves cannot provide full protection. Nor can they be a long term solution. That must wait Saddam's departure. Bill Clinton's hope for a "deathbed conversion" to reason by the Iraqi dictator and a "new start" in relations is dangerous and naive. But so much has been done to keep Saddam within bounds that a further effort is required to bring his subjects some of the benefit of allied resolve.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

New relations between ministers and civil servants

From Sir Brian Cubbon

Sir, The letter (January 7) from Robert Armstrong and Frank Cooper about relations between ministers and civil servants is correct as far as it goes. I first became a permanent secretary when Lord Wilson of Rievaulx was prime minister. When I retired, Lady Thatcher had been prime minister for nearly nine years. I never felt for one moment that I was regarded by her or anyone else as different from the permanent secretaries she appointed.

But the relations between ministers and civil servants are changing, along with our system of government. Senior civil servants are deeply involved in the political problems and style of their ministers. Detachment and objectivity are more difficult.

You, Sir, in your letter on January 9, rightly say that "the way in which ministers and civil servants go about forming policy" should be examined.

For good reasons, government is now more open and accountable. Ministers are under enormous daily pressure to justify publicly what they are doing and not doing. Their political future depends on their handling of issues, incidents and appointments. They are political executives, more than just policy-makers.

For this role they often depend on the abilities of their senior civil servants. They want help from them, rather than the impartial advice required by civil service doctrine. It is not surprising that ministers want to influence appointments and promotions in their departments.

Senior civil servants spend a great deal of time helping ministers to win acceptance for their decisions, and sometimes acting for them in this. In Brussels, and with outside interests and with local services like the police, civil servants are in practice advocates of the ministerial line, and you are a

better negotiator if you believe in the merits of the line you are taking.

Civil servants appearing before select committees speak on behalf of their ministers and while they can deflect the direct question about the merits of the key policy, they are expected to put that policy in a good light in their answers about its detailed execution. This emphasis on presentation and advocacy can brainwash away objectivity and inhibit the rethinking of policy.

The doctrine is that officials should at all times conduct themselves so as to retain the confidence of ministers. Is this the same as earning the gratitude of ministers? Gratitude for help with their political problems? How much is left of the notion of the senior civil servant as the impartial adviser of ministers on policy?

In all areas civil servants will continue to do their best to discharge their professional duty, but changing circumstances mean that there is now a hole in the simple Victorian doctrine about these matters. Filling it is not a matter for another batch of selective agencies or some new contracts for civil servants, or a bland code of practice, or indeed anything from the civil service alone.

The first step, as you suggest, is some hard thinking about the present roles of both ministers and the top ranks of the civil service.

Yours etc,
BRIAN CUBBON,
c/o Oxford and Cambridge Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
January 11.

There are many reasons for this decline: the diminishing power and quality of the House of Commons and its select committees; the increasing arrogance of governments and the executive and the often absurd polarity between the political parties; the growth in numbers and power of ministers' special advisers, who are responsible to no one except the minister (in effect though not in theory); and the relatively recent perception by politicians that with a big enough majority they can achieve almost anything.

Will present and future generations of civil servants be as vigilant as Lord Armstrong and Sir Frank now suggest they should be? Will governments wish to preserve rather than dismantle those institutions which help to guarantee our traditional freedoms and way of life?

Yours etc,
C. S. CULLERNE BOWN
(Chief Press Officer,
Home Office, 1966-74),
11 Reeds Place, NW1.

From Mr Ray Petch

Sir, Lord Armstrong and Sir Frank Cooper rush to defend Whitehall from relatively innocuous charges. But much more serious and, in my view, largely justified disquiet is that the mandarinate has over the past 30 years or so become increasingly self-serving.

The system is now dedicated to the avoidance of true personal accountability. In my experience the public interest is hardly ever mentioned in policy discussions and even ministers' expressed wishes are often ignored.

Yours faithfully,
RAY PETCH (Assistant Secretary,
Home Civil Service, 1973-86),
3 Laureate Gardens,
Newmarket, Suffolk.

Second-hand sales and safety factor

From Mr Roy Mackenzie

Sir, It is, perhaps, not surprising that the chief executive of the Consumers' Association (Jener, January 9) should wish to see current standards on toy safety applied to second-hand sales in charity shops.

A considerable dilemma faces charities and voluntary organisations which directly recycle donated items to those in need, not only in relation to toys but also to furniture, electrical goods and many other articles.

We all have, in our homes, articles which either do not satisfy current safety standards, or do not bear the current safety markings, because they were acquired before the present regulations were enacted. These items did not become inherently more dangerous simply because of changes in the regulations, nor will they do so simply because they pass through charity shops or voluntary organisations into the hands of others who have need of them.

Unless and until the consumer police start to enter our homes and destroy goods which do not meet current safety regulations, we have to accept that new safety standards will take a generation or more to become fully effective, and that goods will continue to be used until they become worn out or broken, even if they do not meet current standards.

Is it right that we should seek to accelerate the effect of new safety regulations by depriving the poorer members of society of the right to acquire, second-hand, goods which the original owners could quite legally have continued to use?

Yours faithfully,
ROY MACKENZIE,
123 Queen Anne Avenue,
Bromley, Kent,
January 11.

Supertankers at risk

From Mr John Nichols

Sir, One feature that recent supertanker disasters have in common is the total failure of power supplies without which it seems it is impossible to drop anchor.

An answer to this would be to require such vessels to carry on each side a length of heavy cable secured at the bows, held along the sides by breakable ties, leading to a large anchor, held in place on an inclined plane by chains secured by slips. In the stern.

When totally out of control, with no power, the anchors should be released by knocking off the slips. The vessel, depending on her length, would then have one or two anchors and between 150 and 300 fathoms of cable. This should bring her head into the wind in, say, 20 fathoms of water.

A Machiavellian touch would be to so arrange matters that lifeboats and life rafts could not be launched until the anchors had been released.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NICHOLS,
Mill House, Holton,
Halesworth, Suffolk.

Mental health care

From Mr John Ford

Sir, The recent tragedy at London zoo, and the health secretary's reported intention to review the powers to treat psychiatric patients in hospital against their will (Letters, January 8), will doubtless be a matter of concern to those interested in individual liberty. There is a widespread belief amongst the minority ethnic communities that existing powers to detain a person for the purpose of assessment at a hospital are sometimes abused.

The health secretary ought to enquire into the support being provided for Ben Sileck and other people in his position. She will find that the resources required long ago to produce effective care in the community still do not exist.

The result is increasing homelessness, confrontation with police and authority and a loss of hope for the thousands of individual adults with mental health problems. Their lives are ruined but they are generally regarded as a nuisance and do not usually attract the headlines which this recent sad case received.

I would be surprised if the position has improved since 1987 when I acted in a case in which a man had been released from a hospital where he had been detained under a restriction order having committed a serious offence of assault. He killed his father with a kitchen knife some two-and-a-half years later. He had apparently received no support from his local social services, although this was probably their statutory responsibility.

That death and the man's indefinite detention at a special hospital could

probably have been avoided. Since then more hospital wards have closed and we will continue to read of more cases of mentally ill offenders committing outrageous acts, but there are too many others, equally in need, who do not come to our attention.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN FORD (solicitor),
272 Seven Sisters Road,
Finsbury Park, N4,
January 8.

From Mr Beadon Denning

Sir, As the large mental hospitals have been run down, the provision of suitable accommodation for the mentally ill in the community has fallen far short of what is needed. Some areas still have only the barest provision, and many lack any 24-hour supported accommodation. The system of funding is complex and haphazard.

Calls for ring-fenced funding to provide proper accommodation have fallen on deaf ears. It is not only those being discharged from hospital or who roam the streets who need it: there are all too many others being cared for by aging parents who become emotionally and physically exhausted as a result.

If the policy of caring for the long-term mentally ill in the community is to have any chance of success, urgent steps must be taken to review the financing of accommodation and to ensure that every area has adequate provision to meet local needs.

Yours faithfully,
BEADON DENNING,
Arls House, Ladywell Lane,
Alresford, Hampshire,
January 6.

School discipline

From Mr Judith Lynch

Sir, David Tytler is indeed being controversial when he claims (Education, January 11) that "society has moved on, it seems, from the time where the teacher could expect good behaviour from the majority as a matter of course". That majority used to be in fear of being physically assaulted by the teacher if they misbehaved. A system that guides a pupil's behaviour by reward seems a huge improvement over one which uses intimidation.

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH LYNCH,
71 Holbrook Barn Road,
Boxford, Sudbury, Suffolk,
January 11.

From Mr S. F. Downing

Sir, A disciplinary system almost exactly the same as that described by David Tytler, rewarding good behaviour and punishing bad, operated at Hele's School, Exeter, 50 years ago. It worked well, cost nothing and won no particular press bouquets.

Yours faithfully,
S. F. DOWNING,
8 St Leonard's Road, Exeter, Devon,
January 11.

Publishing tapes

From the Editor of The Observer

Sir, You quote me (Modern Times, January 14) as saying that I "hug" the transcript of the alleged conversation between the Prince of Wales and Mrs Parker Bowles will be published in Britain. That is not my view: I would regard it as an inexcusable invasion of privacy. I said I expected the conversation to be published here, a very different thing.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD TREFORD,
Editor, The Observer,
Chelsea Bridge House,
Queenstown Road, SW8,
January 14.

Stonking the enemy

From Mr Douglas Hurdley

Sir, Half a century ago, when there was a West Riding of Yorkshire and when games of marbles were played, we stonked our allies (Letter, January 5) by flicking them with the top joint of our thumb.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HURDLEY,
70 Old Barrack Road,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Short and to the point

From Dr Adrian Seville

Sir, Mary Killen (Weekend, January 9) writes about presents that give only annoyance but does not suggest how the recipient should respond.

My mother once sent my late aunt, then in her eighties, a bridge set, in the clear knowledge that it might be rather late in life to take up that game. The response was fully worthy of a "Ginon girl", class of 1912: "We do not play cards, but the shon pencils are very useful."

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SEVILLE,
Tudeley House, Royal Parade,
Chislehurst, Kent.

Speed and safety

From Mr Tony Wilson

Sir, Mr Fantom's dipped headlights rule (Letter, January 12) for gauging a safe braking distance from the car in front is flawed, since it takes no account of the speed of the vehicles involved.

The inter-vehicular distance arrived at by such a rule may well be satisfactory at 30 mph, but at 70 mph the distance (i.e., the same distance) is likely to be a potentially disastrous underestimate.

The "two-second" rule is the one to adopt.

Yours faithfully,
TONY WILSON,
15 Christchurch Avenue, Aston,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
January 12.

A sense of proportion

From Mr Jonathan Dawson

Sir, Mr David Chesterton's letter (January 7) analysing the London concert halls' classical top ten could perhaps benefit from an improvement in the method used. Whereas Mr Chesterton has used a simple first-past-the-post method, a weighted average or proportional representation may provide a more accurate basis for assessing popularity.

To produce the correct weighting, divide the raw numbers of actual playings by the number of symphonies in the canon of each composer. So, Beethoven (50 symphonies played, nine written) has a weighted score of 5.56 and remains top. Mozart (33 played, 41 written) has a weighted score of only 0.80 and falls a long way down from the "raw" second position. Haydn (29 played, 104 written) fares even worse with a score of 0.28. Mahler achieves a weighted score of 2.83, Dvorak 2.25 and Tchaikovsky 3.38. Brahms is the great beneficiary

of this method as, with 20 played and four written, he scores a weighted average of 5.0, second only to Beethoven.

It would be interesting to know how many Elgar symphonic performances were given, as with only two symphonies composed, a mere 11 playings would give him a score equal to Beethoven's. César Franck, with only one symphony, might have done even better.

Are these scores representative of the UK as a whole?

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN DAWSON,
Mole Ridge, St Mary's Road,
Leatherhead, Surrey.

From Mr Andy Robertson

Sir, If Beethoven's Seventh was played nine times, should not the score be 63 and not 50?

Yours sincerely,
ANDY ROBERTSON,
33 Brookdene Avenue,
Osney, Hertfordshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

SIR JOHN PRIDEAUX



was made chairman of the combined bank's international operations and was instrumental in NatWest's expansion in North America and the Asia Pacific region.

In 1971 he became chairman of NatWest. He oversaw the bank's expansion into credit cards but was unable to prevent the slide into the property and secondary banking crisis, which resulted from the bank's aggressive lending policy as it strove to steal ground from Barclays.

NatWest had the systems in place to ensure that it was not overstretched but, in the fevered mood which took hold

of the stock market in 1974. brokers sought to stimulate business by encouraging bear raids on companies. (In

newspaper report suggested that NatWest was on the verge of collapse. While it would be going too far to suggest that a denial by the newly-knighted PricewaterhouseCoopers, the bank's auditor, was, alone, enough to restore NatWest's share price, there is no doubt that the bank would have faced a far harder struggle had it not been led by someone of

Prideaux's moral stature.

A reserved, at times remote, establishment figure, he conveyed an almost Reithian air of rectitude and wisdom. His enduring monument is the NatWest Tower between Liverpool Street Station and the Stock Exchange.

Prideaux had also been nussling with successive ministers of health to raise enough money to redevelop St Thomas' Hospital all the way from Westminster to Lambeth Bridge. His scheme was halted in the 1970s, ironically by the very financial strains which were disfiguring the City. He retired as chairman of the hospital's special trust-

He is survived by his wife, Joan, two sons and a daughter.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PATIENT
ASSOCIATION**
Bordon, Hants



January 15 196



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 u also Anthony Dowell,
 and Merle Park at Covent C

Flower Festival duet Mr. N. phrasing was extremely im influence appeared to be ex and tempo of Miss Nerina's from Danish-French light ease towards the intensity of

vine manner in her dancing
interplay of characterisation

brilliance of their praiseworthy partnership, becoming individualism was a solicitous, the way.

ORDER TO
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MR. GEORGE
Seaford Road, 5
Leh £14.046 gro
£1.1651.

He directed his
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papers, jewelry, coverings, tools and that they are also burning, burying.

Mr. R. Scott, a beneficiary, said he worked as under shop. was heart aged and blind Maskell had look life. "He did not using his mother"

Patrons of the Royal Ballet were granted two visiting stars in last night's programme at Covent Garden: Miss Beryl Grey was dancing in Ashton's *Les Rendezvous* for what must be the last time in many a long day. And Mr. Raymond Grey was dancing the role of the party after his recent indisposition to partner Miss Nadia Nerina in the *pas de deux* from Bournonville's *Flower Festival in Genzano*.

For Miss Grey *Les Rendezvous* has become an exercise in versatility and not a ballet in which she shines effortlessly. Her radiance (of which the smile and the generous *port de bras* are the most symptomatic) is not matched by the choreographer's invention: the dipping lifts of the *Entrée* and the dramatic procession of the ballerina, supported in an expansive pose between the lines of the Promenaders, were beautifully done — perhaps even more grandly than the style of the pianissimo *través* — but the choreographer's invention is not nearly so southeasterly for Miss Grey's personality, and the elaborate turns gave her a moment or so of difficulty. She and her well-matched partner, Mr. Donald Macleary, seemed too strong and significant for the other Promenaders, as exemplified in the *pas de*


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January 15 1966



enthusiasts had the chance to see Grey and Rudolf Nureyev, but also Anthony Dowell, and Merle Park at Covent Garden. The evening was a success. The dancing was delightfully danced by Mr. Anthony Dowell and Mrs. Bosman.

The Flower Festival duet Mr. Nureyev and Mrs. Bosman. The phrasing was extremely impressive. The influence appeared to be expected and tempo of Miss Nerina's dancing from Danish-French lightness towards the intensity of the dance.

Nerina would not follow this trend. At least, there was more of the same manner in her dancing. The interplay of characterisation.

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JANUARY 15 1993

TV LISTINGS

The American 'commodore'...
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The subject of an Arena...

OPINION

PERILS FOR THE PRESS

The Calcutt report is...
The Calcutt report is...
The Calcutt report is...

TO THE AID OF IRAQI

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If the...

COLUMNS

Bernard Levin

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Robert Blake

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Janet Daley

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LETTERS

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BUSINESS 19-25

The new president will keep trade negotiators waiting

ARTS 27-29

Naive art: the No1 collection may go abroad

SPORTS 32-36

LIVERPOOL FACE A SEASON IN RUINS

INFOTECH ON FRIDAY Page 26

THE TIMES

2

FRIDAY JANUARY 15 1993

BUSINESS TODAY

RANKLED

Rank saw profits fall from £250.5 million to £230 million. The company said a potential bid for its TV interest is not welcome. Page 21

TAX PLEA

The Institute of Directors called on Norman Lamont for £5 billion in tax cuts this year and public spending reductions. Page 21

ON GUARD

Securicor is tendering for contracts to run Britain's soon-to-be privatised prisons in a further expansion of its business activities. Page 21

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5345 (-0.0077)
German mark 2.4877 (-0.0272)
Exchange Index 81.0 (-0.8)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2759.2 (+13.9)
Dow Jones 9258.97 (+4.59)
Nikkei Ave. 16515.60 (-2.31)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 7%
3-month Interbank 7.47%
US Federal Funds 2.45%
3-month Treas Bils 2.99-2.97%
Long Bond 7.42%

CURRENCIES

New York London
£/\$ 1.5345 1.5380
\$/£ 0.6521 0.6521
DM/\$ 1.6195 1.6195
\$/DM 0.6178 0.6178
¥/\$ 125.08 125.08
\$/¥ 0.0080 0.0080
ECU/\$ 1.2500 1.2500
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$)
AM 326.20 PM 327.65
Close 327.00-327.50
New York
Comex 327.15-327.65

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 138.7 November (3%)
Denotes midday trading price

DTI inspectors clear NatWest of dishonesty

By GEORGE SIVELL CITY EDITOR

A TRADE department report has cleared National Westminster executives of deliberately withholding information from a previous DTI enquiry and of allegations of dishonesty and impropriety. The report also says the inspectors were satisfied that the Bank of England did not obstruct or impede the DTI in its enquiry into the Blue Arrow affair.

Lord Alexander, the National Westminster chairman, had called for a second report into National Westminster after *The Economist* magazine questioned, on March 6, 1992, how much Tom Frost, the former chief executive of National Westminster, had known about the Blue Arrow affair, and asked if the Bank of England had performed its supervisory role properly.

Lord Alexander commented yesterday: "This is a welcome end to an episode from which the bank learned important lessons several years ago."

Mr Frost, now deputy chairman of NatWest, said: "I am glad that the record has finally been put straight."

Lord Boardman, chairman of NatWest at the time of the Blue Arrow rights issue affair, said: "I am very pleased that, as I never doubted, the further Blue Arrow investigation has concluded that there was no foundation for the allegations against the integrity of Nat-

The DTI has spent a further £2.4 million on a report that vindicates Tom Frost, the former chief executive of NatWest, and other senior directors at the bank

ional Westminster Bank and its former chief executive, Tom Frost, which were made in the course of the Blue Arrow criminal trial last year.

"But I regret that the inspectors did not take the opportunity to remove the criticisms unfairly made in the report on the previous investigation, of Charles Green and Terry Green, then deputy group chief executives, and of John Plastow, then an executive director of the bank."

"Their consequent resignations from the bank and the irreparable harm done to their distinguished business careers, are vivid illustrations of the damage to individuals and the injustice that can result from this kind of inquisitorial investigation."

The inspectors, Michael Crystal, QC, David Spence, who both undertook the report July 1989 into County NatWest, and Victor Temple, said: "We are satisfied that senior officers of National Westminster Bank PLC did not deliberately withhold from the CNW Inspectors relevant information and documentation bearing on their role and knowledge of events."

"We have investigated a number of other allegations of dishonesty and impropriety which have been levelled at senior officers of National Westminster Bank PLC. We are satisfied that there is no substance in any of these allegations."

"It has been alleged that National Westminster Bank PLC and the Bank of England were parties to a conspiracy to mislead the DTI. We are satisfied that there is no substance in this allegation. We are also satisfied that at no stage did the Bank of England obstruct or impede the DTI in relation to its investigations into the Blue Arrow transactions."

"The outcome of the internal investigations conducted by National Westminster Bank PLC in early 1988 into the Blue Arrow transaction was highly unsatisfactory. However, the report which was submitted to the DTI in May 1988 was the product of inefficiency and inexperience. It was not the product of dishonesty."

"The involvement of the National Westminster Bank Group in the Blue Arrow affair has been a disaster. It has led to the resignation of senior officers. By October 1992 it had cost the National Westminster Bank Group in excess of £123 million."

The bank's fortunes deteriorated in the second half, when it clocked up losses of £49 million, partially offsetting the group's interim pre-tax profits of £92 million.

Stripping out the bad debt charges the group's profits were above market estimates and showed a strong recovery to £648 million, despite a fall in net interest income of £68 million. Tight cost controls reduced operating costs slightly to £1.27 million.

Peter Ellwood, the bank's chief executive, said the 5 per cent increase in profits before bad debts "does not disguise the fact that the overall results, dominated as they are by the high level of provisions, are disappointing."

Despite the disappointing profits performance, the bank has held its final dividend of 3.25p, making an unchanged total for the year of 6.49p. For the second year running, the bank has had to plunder reserves to pay the dividend.

However, Robert Law, at Lehman Brothers, has raised his profits forecast for the current year by £50 million to £300 million, reflecting other analysts views, and helped lift the shares 9.5p to 156p.

Bad debt provisioning.

DTI report, page 20

DTI 'misled' by Roux

By JON ASHWORTH

OLIVIER Roux, the former finance director of Guinness, lied to trade department inspectors during the early stages of the investigation into the takeover of Distillers, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday.

Mr Roux, the prosecution's main witness in the trial of Thomas Ward, an American lawyer and a former director of Guinness, said under cross-examination that he had made misleading statements during two initial interviews with DTI inspectors in 1987.

He said he had done so to protect his friend Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker, and Ephraim Margulies, former chairman of S & W Berisford, who bought Guinness shares during the bid for Distillers in 1986, allegedly as part of a share support operation.

The court heard that Mr Roux had been interviewed by the DTI on five occasions between January and March 1987. He was questioned about two invoices relating to payments to offshore companies. Mr Roux said that any items needing "amplification" were dealt with in a subsequent submission to the DTI.

"My evidence, taken in its totality, is full and frank and truthful," he said.

Mr Roux was asked why he had taken so long to correct the false statements. He said the DTI had not given him enough time to prepare. He was also, the court heard, grasping with personal loyalties. "My statements were incorrect because I was protecting a friend."

In December 1986, Mr Roux said, Mr Parnes had telephoned him about payments to two offshore companies. The pair had agreed to create two backdated letters to support a false account. Later, they had had a change of

heart. The court heard that Mr Margulies had bought Guinness shares during the Distillers battle. Guinness afterwards felt "a moral obligation" to Mr Margulies, who had lost money in those trades. It was decided to compensate him and to pay him a success fee.

Mr Roux had earlier denied knowing that an invoice for £5.2 million from Marketing and Acquisition Consultants, Mr Ward's Jersey company, constituted a success fee for Mr Ward.

Mr Ward is alleged to have entered a "joint enterprise" with Ernest Saunders, former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, to steal £5.2 million from the brewing group by submitting a bogus invoice. He denies false accounting, procuring the execution of a valuable security and theft.

The trial continues today.



Bad debts take the edge off TSB £43m recovery

By SARAH BAGNALL

WORSE-than-expected bad debt provisions of £597 million were to blame for the weak recovery in TSB Group's pre-tax profits to £43 million for the year to end-October, compared to losses of £47 million.

The bank's fortunes deteriorated in the second half, when it clocked up losses of £49 million, partially offsetting the group's interim pre-tax profits of £92 million.

Stripping out the bad debt charges the group's profits were above market estimates and showed a strong recovery to £648 million, despite a fall in net interest income of £68 million. Tight cost controls reduced operating costs slightly to £1.27 million.

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However, Robert Law, at Lehman Brothers, has raised his profits forecast for the current year by £50 million to £300 million, reflecting other analysts views, and helped lift the shares 9.5p to 156p.

Bad debt provisioning.

Tempus, page 23

Looking ahead: Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, yesterday sported a builder's helmet when she joined construction workers in Downing Street to draw attention to new national vocational qualifications for the construction industry. She unfurled a large banner on a site where Costain is carrying out substantial refurbishments to the Downing Street side of the Foreign Office. Mrs Shephard said: "Qualifications in any industry are of the utmost importance, particularly as we come out of the recession. If British industry is to remain competitive."

Sir Clifford Chetwood, chairman of the Construction Industry Training Board, said: "Our industry goes from boom to bust faster than any other. It can just as quickly move from bust to boom and we must be prepared for it with a qualified workforce."

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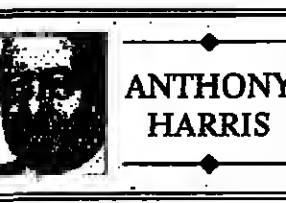
MEMBER OF THE LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE AND THE SFA.

G7 an open door that should be shut

The news that Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the next US Treasury secretary, wants to revitalise the Group of Seven makes depressing reading, except for the marketing managers of the international airlines. The rhetoric of the Clinton team might justify a suspicion that Mr Bentsen wants to use the meetings to browbeat US trade partners, notably Japan, but even if his intentions are entirely benevolent, it is still depressing. Spare a moment for what may look at first like a roundabout explanation.

When I first became a leader-writer, my editor gave me this advice: "If you want to look influential, you can do it quite simply: find out what the authorities are thinking of doing, and write a strongly worded piece urging them to do it."

Pushing at open doors worked like a charm. Finding out the official agenda was a little trouble at first, but before long senior officials and even ministers would ring to point out doors that we could helpfully push; and in due course we were able to interview them with proposals of our own. Inevitably, we overdid the originality in the end, were judged by the High Priestess to be politically incor-



ANTHONY HARRIS

rect, and were relegated to the sidelines; but it was fun while it lasted. This game can be played by non-journalists: just at the time when we were over-playing our hand, it was taken up with great success by G7.

This talking-shop for the main finance ministers had got itself a bad name in 1978, when an agreement on a German-led attempt at world growth stimulus set off a world inflation and led to the second oil shock. This discredited international co-ordination for some years, especially in Germany and in Reagan's Washington.

In 1985, however, G7 re-established itself. The huge dollar overvaluation which resulted from Reaganomics pleased nobody. American companies were losing markets, while everyone else complained that the US was exporting inflation. The currency markets turned decisively in February, but in March, G7 decided at the Plaza hotel in Paris to claim paternity. They promised official intervention to correct the rate, and the dollar obediently fell until it was clearly under-

valued — to be stabilised by the Louvre Accord, pushing another open door. The Accords were a public relations triumph. Dealers came to believe that the central banks were all powerful when they agreed, and obediently followed even hints of possible future pacts. With this proof of their wisdom and power, officials purred. But hubris is always shadowed by nemesis, as the Greeks knew. In pre-Accord days, central banks walked in fear of currency markets — indeed, it is arguable that this was for many years the only constraint on British policy. With the markets tamed, the bankers became wilful. The Plaza had much to do with the follies and bubbles of the late 1980s.

Ironically, this helped for a time to confirm the power illusions of the central bankers. The commercial banks had made such losses on unwise lending that they kept their currency desks on the tightest rein. The markets became illiquid and even light intervention was enough to

tame economic reality. In this phase, ministers contrived the EMU, the Maastricht convergence criteria, and other programmes to rule the tides. King Canute would have given them a ducking on the spot. Economic realities took longer.

In short, the record suggests G7 has done harm even when it appeared to do good. It may now achieve nothing: if Senator Bentsen is thinking, for example, of a revival of the 1978 growth accord, which would be bang in fashion, he will surely meet an immovable object in elephantine German memory: only ill-feeling will result. The one useful purpose of international meetings is to exchange information: if each country knows what its partners are planning, its own plans will be more realistic. This has been done efficiently for decades by the OECD. G7 remains redundant. International meetings do a wider mischief: they are a distraction. While ministers have been pre-occupied with Maastricht and with the Gans squabbles, the former Soviet Union has drifted from reform to near-chaos, and Bosnia has burned. Western leaders have been too busy to respond. The good news would be that they are too busy to respond to the Senator.

Inspectors rule out NatWest cover-up

The following are conclusions from the Department of Trade and Industry inspectors' report into the affairs of the National Westminster Bank

On 12 March 1992 the Secretary of State appointed us, Michael Crystal QC, David L. Spence CA and Victor B. A. Temple, (the NWB inspectors) under Section 432(2) of the Companies Act 1985 to investigate the affairs of National Westminster Bank PLC. In particular we were asked to investigate the role played by senior officers of National Westminster Bank PLC in the offer by Blue Arrow for the whole of the issued share capital of Manpower in 1987, and whether any of those officers had deliberately withheld from the CNW inspectors relevant information and documentation bearing on their role and knowledge of events.

Stock market collapse
We are satisfied that senior officers of NWB did not deliberately withhold from the CNW inspectors any relevant information or documentation bearing on their role in or knowledge of the Blue Arrow transaction in the month following the stock market collapse in October 1987.

We are also satisfied that executive directors of NWB did not deliberately conceal matters from the non-executive directors during this period.

However, with the benefit of hindsight we believe that it would have been better if non-executive directors had been given more information about the Blue Arrow transaction during this period.

December 1987 NWB board meeting
We are satisfied that senior officers of NWB did not delib-

erately withhold from the CNW inspectors any relevant information or documentation bearing on their role in or knowledge of the Blue Arrow transaction concerning the NWB board meeting on 8 December 1987.

We are also satisfied that executive directors of NWB did not deliberately conceal matters from the non-executive directors at the board meeting on 8 December 1987.

However, with the benefit of hindsight we believe that it would have been better if non-executive directors had been given more information about

Events described are inconsistent with the existence of a special relationship between NWB and the Bank

the Blue Arrow transaction prior to the board meeting. Had they been operated properly, the systems introduced by NWB Group would have put NWB Group in a position whereby it could comply with its disclosure obligations in relation to the various holdings of Blue Arrow shares. The systems did not operate properly. This was a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

Regulators consider action
We are satisfied that the Bank of England did not try to protect NWB or place difficulties in the way of an investigation by the DTI. The DTI took its own course.

Internal investigations

The NWB Group Inspection Department reports were critical of the NWB Group in many respects. The second interim report criticised the methods used to rescue the Blue Arrow rights issue as having compromised the integrity of the NWB Group. The information contained in that report enabled Lord Boardman, when he read it over the weekend of 16 and 17 April, 1988, to record his concern at the market being seriously misled.

Meetings with the Bank of England

We are satisfied that there is no substance in the allegation of a conspiracy between senior officers of NWB and senior officials of the Bank of England to mislead the DTI.

We are also satisfied that the events leading to the submission of the Wilkinson report to the DTI do not support the allegation that there was a 'special' relationship between NWB and the Bank of England. Events described are also inconsistent with the existence of a 'special' relationship between NWB and the Bank of England.

Further legal advice
We are satisfied that the failure to obtain further legal advice was not due to any dishonesty on the part of those concerned in NWB.

The adequacy of the Wilkinson report

The deficiencies in the Wilkinson report were the product of inefficiency and inexperience. They were not the product of dishonesty. The Wilkinson report did not attempt to conceal the existence of the NWB Group Inspection Department and OAG (Operation Audit Group) reports.

We are satisfied that the Wilkinson report was not designed to blame CNW and its employees, minimise NWB's involvement in the Blue Arrow affair or mislead the regulators.

We are also satisfied that there is no substance in the allegation that Messrs Frost, C Green and T Green conspired with Sir Philip Wilkinson to mislead the DTI through the submission of the Wilkinson report. The Wilkinson report did not in fact mislead the DTI.

Group compliance
We are satisfied that there was no deliberate NWB policy to withhold the Blue Arrow matter from Mr Bellamy (director of NWB Group compliance). The explanations put forward by Messrs Frost and T Green are the most likely reason why Mr Bellamy was not involved.

We believe that it is unfortunate that Mr Bellamy was not consulted as events unfolded. The failure to consult Mr



Vindicated: the inspectors were satisfied that Tom Frost gave honest and truthful evidence at the Blue Arrow trial

Bellamy meant that a further opportunity to focus on the issues raised by the Blue Arrow transaction was lost to NWB.

The CNW investigation starts
We are satisfied that CNW, CNWS and the Bank of England provided to the CNW inspectors all material documentation relevant to the CNW investigation.

Further documents
We have found no evidence which supports any allegations of suppression of any NWB documents. We are satisfied that NWB's stated policy of co-operation with the CNW inspectors was actively pursued by all relevant officers and employees and by Wilde Sapte. We are also satisfied that there is no substance in the allegation that NWB and Wilde Sapte deliberately concealed documents from the CNW inspectors.

We asked NWB witnesses whether they had ever been asked to destroy or tamper

with any documents relating to the Blue Arrow affair. We found no evidence that this had ever happened.

Resignations at NWB
At the trial it was alleged that there was, in essence, a 'special' relationship between NWB and the Bank of England. The events described are inconsistent with the existence

of any 'special' relationship between NWB and the Bank of England.

Allegations of perjury
We have reviewed the relevant documentation, its provenance, and (where appropriate) handwritten annotations. We have considered the evidence given by Messrs Frost, C Green and T Green to the

CNW inspectors, to the trial and to us. We have also had the opportunity to assess the demeanour and bearing of Messrs Frost, C Green and T Green when giving evidence to us.

We are satisfied that Messrs Frost, C Green and T Green gave honest and truthful evidence at the trial. We are also

satisfied that there is no substance in the allegation that they concealed the true extent of their knowledge of, and involvement in, the Blue Arrow affair in giving evidence during the trial.

Provision of advice and documents to prosecution witnesses
We do not consider that there

is any substance in the allegations of improper provision of documents and coaching. We are satisfied that Wilde Sapte were concerned to act within both the spirit and the letter of the law, and to ensure that its standards of behaviour accorded with best practice. In relation to the provision of documents to NWB witnesses, and the alleged coaching of Mr Frost, Wilde Sapte took, and relied upon, advice from two experienced leading counsel.

We are satisfied that Mr Frost, NWB and Wilde Sapte did not deliberately withhold any documents from the parties to the trial or from the court. There was no cover-up or conspiracy to withhold documents.

In our view both NWB and Wilde Sapte behaved properly and responsibly in relation to the production of documents sought from NWB during the trial.

CBI chief outlines the way ahead for Europe

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS proposals for the future economic direction of Europe were laid out last night by Howard Davies, director-general of British Industry, in a far-reaching agenda for the long term prospects of the EC.

In a speech at the House of Commons last night, Mr Davies said that the UK was now beginning to emerge from recovery, "but I think it is far too soon to run up any flags" - but the principal thrust of his address was on whether Europe could be a "premier league or third division" world economic performer.

He argued in favour of currency stability, suggesting that an important source of world competitive advantage for Europe could be an EC-wide stable exchange rate regime, "or even a single currency in due course."

He forecast further moves towards economic and monetary union, but thought that a single currency was a long way off.

"The timetable in the Maastricht treaty for achievement of a single currency looks unrealistic to me," he said.

Stressing that "the whole orientation of Community policy needs to change", Mr Davies laid out a number of steps the EC ought to take:

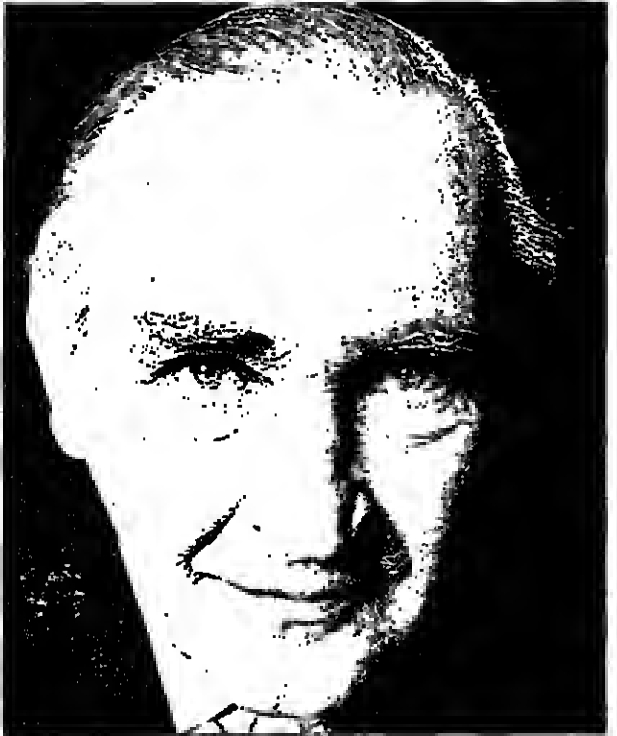
□ Competitiveness had to be the focus of attention for European decision-makers, with the European Commission, in particular, asking itself every time it proposed a new directive what impact it might have on Europe's competitive position.

□ The single market had to be completed vigorously. "This did not just mean the ratification of the Maastricht treaty, but to make the single market a practical reality. A genuine barrier-free market is not created by the stroke of a pen. To make the single market a reality will require great political and administrative effort in the years to come."

□ The commission needed to tread very carefully about future social legislation and regulation, with the single market itself, rather than centralising social proposals from Brussels, acting as the best protection against poor quality and badly rewarded jobs.

□ Europe ought to press on towards enlargement, opening detailed negotiations with Austria and Sweden immediately, and properly addressing its future relations with the former East European bloc.

□ The future political life of Europe should remain robust, including examining the EC's existing institutions.



Lord Boardman: concerned at the market being misled

The systems introduced by NWB Group did not operate properly. This was most unsatisfactory

Packer pulls out of Westpac

FROM REUTERS IN SYDNEY

WESTPAC Banking Corp has been thrown into turmoil by the announcement that Kerry Packer, Australia's richest man, has resigned from the bank's board just one week after joining it.

The biggest concern is that Mr Packer will dump his recently acquired 10 per cent stake in the bank and deepen its crisis of confidence.

After its share price slumped, Westpac confirmed the move followed a disagreement over its recovery programme. Westpac said both Mr Packer, chairman of Consolidated Press Holdings, and Al Dunlap, CPH's managing director, had resigned and that its recovery programme would now accelerate.

Westpac shares closed 13 cents lower at A\$2.91 (£1.27), but off a low of A\$2.86. About 11.5 million were traded.

Martin Duncan, BT Securities banking analyst, said one rumour was that Mr Packer and Mr Dunlap disagreed

with the pace of change and the degree of control they would have over the bank. "The share price from now depends on whether Packer intends to sell out or whether he intends to hold on to it as a passive investment," he said.

Another analyst said Mr Packer and Mr Dunlap would have brought some credibility to Westpac's reforms. "If any-

one could have sorted the bank out, they could," he said.

The big shake-up at Westpac follows its A\$1.56 billion loss for the year to September 30 and its disastrous A\$1.2 billion rights issue, which closed 73 per cent undersubscribed. The turmoil has already claimed the jobs of the bank's chairman, managing director and five other directors.

Analysts said the next major test for Westpac shares would be the announcement of a new managing director to replace Frank Conroy, who resigned on December 17. John Uhrig, the bank's new chairman, said Westpac expected its extensive search for a managing director to be completed as planned before the bank's annual meeting next Tuesday.

Newspaper reports had speculated that Mr Dunlap, who has a reputation for an uncompromising attitude to cost-cutting to improve profitability, was a candidate for the job.

Packer: gave credibility

Siemens braced for hard times

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

SIEMENS, Germany's leading electronics and electrical engineering group, expressed the Frankfurt stock exchange with a 2 per cent increase in net income in the first quarter of its current financial year, but said a huge effort would be needed to maintain profits.

Reflecting deepening gloom over the German economy, Heinrich von Pierer, the management board chairman, said in a statement that in the year to next September, Siemens is prepared for "leaner times following five consecutive years of growth in net income". On Wednesday,

the supervisory board of Volkswagen, Europe's biggest carmaker, approved a new strategy, including heavy job cuts.

It is designed to make the company fitter and leaner to cope with high German labour costs and the harsher economic climate.

Siemens's group net profit rose to DM1.96 billion in 1991-2, from DM1.79 billion the year before. Sales rose by 4 per cent to DM16.9 billion. Karl-Hermann Baumann, the finance director, told a news conference that the net profit in 1992-3 would be about the

same as last year. Herr von Pierer said he expected incoming orders to grow between 1 and 2 per cent, to about DM87 billion, this year. Sales should rise to about DM84 billion, from DM78.5 billion. Group incoming orders in the first quarter of 1992-3 are lower, owing to lower orders in public communications and power generation.

Siemens plans to cut its workforce by the end of the year, to just below 400,000 from the current 410,000.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sheffield Brewery to close after 133 years

THE Sheffield Brewery is to close after 133 years of production. The shutdown will mean the shedding of 186 jobs as part of a cutback at Whitbread in response to the chronic over-capacity that is dogging the brewery industry. A further 135 jobs will go as Whitbread cuts its distribution depot at Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Whitbread bought the Sheffield Brewery, that produces the Trophy, Benuleys, Gold Label and Higgs brands, in 1962 as part of the takeover of Tennant Brothers. The two closures will improve efficiency by 15 per cent at Whitbread's five other breweries in Britain as production is transferred there by the summer.

Goode Durrant slips

WEAKER performances from housebuilding and motor distribution helped to cut pre-tax profit at Goode Durrant, the industrial holding company, to £1.80 million in the six months to October 31, compared with £2.64 million last time. Despite turnover down to £90.6 million (£97.8 million), and a fall in earnings per share from 3.5p to 2.3p, the interim dividend is held at 2.15p. Housebuilding profit slumped by 56 per cent, to £325,000, and that generated by the motor distribution arm by more than half, to £472,000.

3i sells two stakes

INVESTORS in Industry (3i) has raised £24.6 million through the sale of two investments. It plans to put the money into unquoted companies, in anticipation of UK economic recovery. 3i sold its 55 per cent stake in London Atlantic Investment Trust and its 27.2 per cent holding in North British Canadian Investment Company. Rupert Wiles, an executive director at 3i, said the group wanted to be prepared "to invest in more smaller companies as opportunities arise as we emerge out of the recession."

Intercare raises payout

INTERCARE Group, the fast-growing optical, dental and medical products supplier, is raising its dividend by 30 per cent. Organic growth and acquisitions helped to increase pre-tax profits at the Cheshire-based group by 138 per cent to £3.62 million in the year to end-October, up from £1.52 million last time. Turnover advanced 95.5 per cent to £29.1 million. Shareholders will receive a total dividend of 2.6p a share, against 2p previously, after a final payout of 2p a share. Intercare shares firmed 2p to 194p.

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CBI chief outlines the way ahead for Europe

IN PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Rank denies film and TV interests are for sale

■ One thousand jobs were lost at Rank Organisation last year, with redundancy costs contributing to a fall in profits from £250.5 million before tax to £230.1 million

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

RANK Organisation, Britain's biggest leisure group, is forecasting no immediate upturn in consumer spending in Britain and saying the only improvement seen so far has come from America.

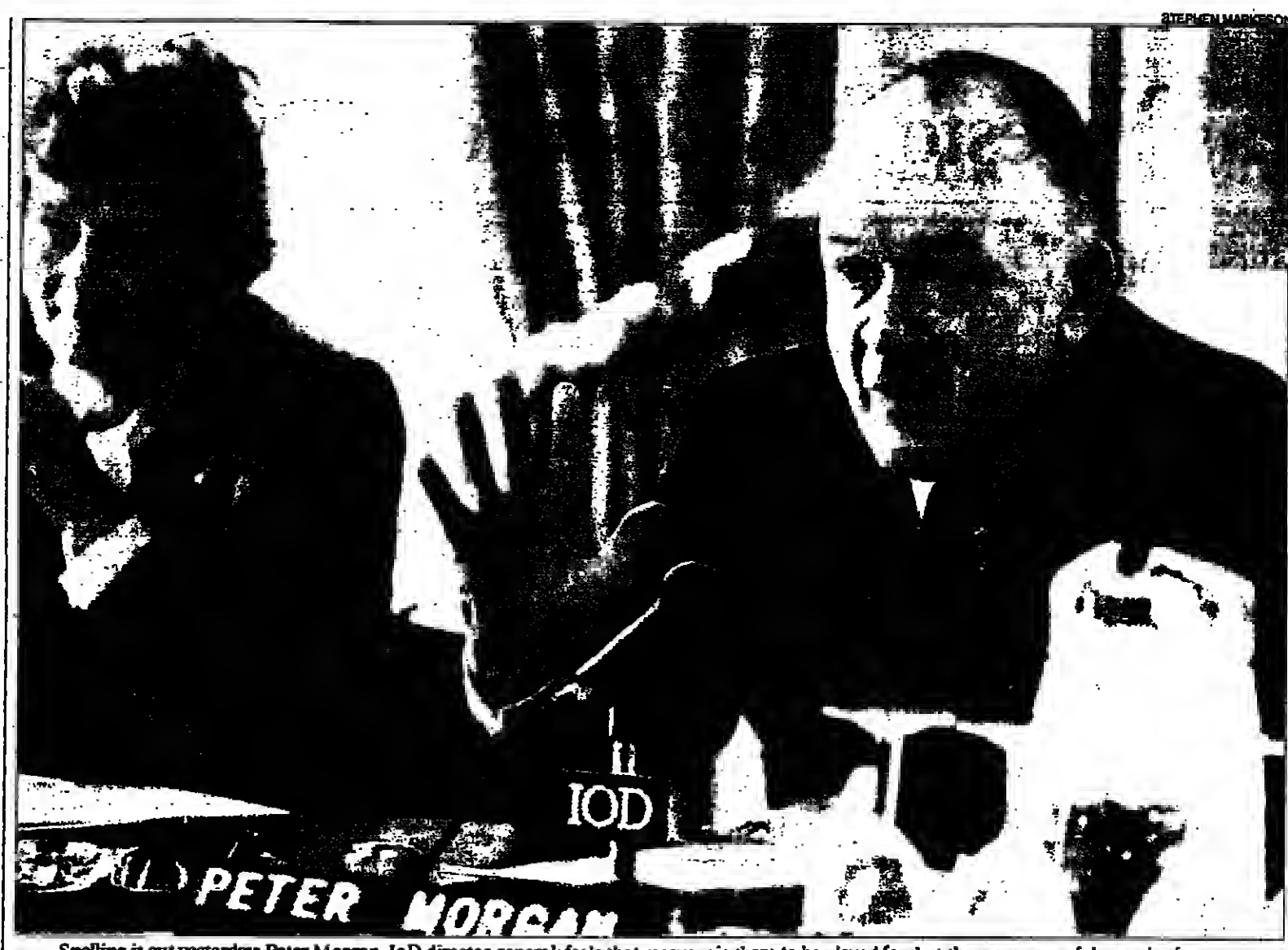
Michael Gifford, chief executive, used the opportunity of the full-year figures yesterday to deny again that his company's film and television interests, including the famous Pinewood studios and the Odeon cinema chain, are for sale.

But it appears that more than half the necessary financing is in place for an approach by a consortium to Rank to buy the business. Already committed to the venture are such names as Michael Grade, head of Channel 4; John Wharmby, one-time director-general of the IBA and the chairman of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group; and Ilen Maisei, a Hollywood executive.

However, it is thought any formal offer to Rank is weeks rather than days away. Meanwhile, Mr Gifford insisted that no approach had been made by Chemical Bank, the City bank behind the offer, or any other party.

"We're approached daily about all kinds of fancy ideas, and we're quite used to showing people the door," he said. "There's nothing I can do about people running around making announcements about what they are going to do, but we are not in the business of selling our film and TV interests."

Rank was announcing a fall in pre-tax profits in the year to end-October from £250.5 million to £230.1 million, a figure at the bottom end of analysts' expectations and which sent the shares sliding 9p to 695p.



Spelling it out yesterday: Peter Morgan, IoD director-general, feels that recovery is there to be played for, but there are powerful negative features

IoD calls for £5bn tax cuts this year

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANY directors yesterday urged Norman Lamont, the chancellor, to cut taxes by a total of £5 billion this year in his two budgets.

The free-market IoD said that to increase taxes now would be "silly" and would damage confidence in a Britain's highly fragile recovery.

The institute argued that the UK's deficit was now so large that any increase in either direct or indirect taxation sufficient to make a difference would be politically unacceptable.

Accordingly, the government should take the opportunity of the two budgets due this year to cut taxes further, and then take a "revolutionary" approach to public spending, by making actual reductions in the volume of public expenditure, rather than making cuts in the amount of public spending

growth.

The public sector borrowing requirement — the difference between Government spending and revenue — is expected to climb to £37 billion in the current financial year and £44 billion next year to pay for the cost of recession.

Peter Morgan, IoD director general, said: "We feel that the recovery is still to be played for — that things are in the balance, that there are still some very powerful negative forces around, and that business confidence is no better than it was a year ago."

Restoring confidence among those running businesses, households and consumers was a pre-condition of recovery and had to be the prime objective of the spring Budget.

The chancellor should reduce taxation by £2.3 billion

Judgment reserved in homes case

THE High Court yesterday reserved judgment on whether elderly people who lost money in the collapse of home income plans that offered to release cash from their properties, are entitled to improved compensation. Lord Justice Tuckey, said the court would consider its decision.

Barnes Sampson, solicitors, challenged as "unreasonable or unlawful" methods used by the Investors Compensation Scheme in assessing how much it should pay to victims whose brokers or advisers had become insolvent. In four test cases, they said the ICS failed to comply with the relevant rules or acted unreasonably, making its decisions on payouts invalid. The ICS denied short-changing the claimants.

BCCI claims unit to be shut down

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Bank of England is to shut down the special unit handling claims from depositors in the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Despite widespread publicity, 24,000 of the bank's £2,500 depositors who received a claim form have failed to make a claim under the Bank's deposit protection scheme. The scheme provides compensation in depositors when a bank collapses equal to 75 per cent of an eligible sterling deposit with a maximum £15,000 payout.

A spokeswoman for the Bank said yesterday that almost 12,000 claims had been sent involving payments of more than £60 million. An additional 4,500 claimants applied for compensation but were judged ineligible and the Bank was still in the process of sending 2,000 claims, where the Bank was waiting for proof of debt.

The spokeswoman said the Bank expected to pay out between £80 million and £85 million in total. Any payment made from the fund would be reduced if depositors received payments from BCCI's shareholders, the government of Abu Dhabi, which has an interim scheme limiting depositors to a maximum £5,000 payout.

The Bank's scheme excluded deposits held by those connected with the management or ownership of BCCI; other UK banks; secured deposits; deposits securing overdrafts or loans; and deposits in foreign currencies.

The Bank's spokeswoman said the dedicated claims unit for BCCI depositors was to be run down over the next few months because its workload had diminished. She said this meant the scheme's capacity to settle claims would be diminished, but added that depositors would still have the right to make a claim for as long as BCCI was in liquidation.

Last week, a group of creditors filed an appeal in a Luxembourg court against a \$3 billion compensation scheme from the Abu Dhabi authorities for BCCI.

Stanley Leisure declines

Profits at Stanley Leisure, the bookmaking-to-casinos group, eased from £3.7 million before tax to £3.5 million in the half-year to November 1. The interim is held at 1.52p.

Figures from the racing division showed average spend up a few pence to £3.42p. Stanley's casinos' average was £84 — well off the figures "in the high nineties" recorded a few years ago.

Leonard Steinberg, chairman, said despite talks breaking down about the possible purchase of six casinos from Brent Walker, he would not rule out resuming discussions.

Microgen rises

Microgen Holdings, the information services group, is raising its dividend to 5.05p (4.8p), giving a total 7.25p (7.00p). Full-year profits advanced to £8.24 million in the year to end-October (£7.28 million).

Hampson cuts

Hampson Industries is cutting its interim from 0.6p to 0.4p. The final could also be cut. Pre-tax profit for the six months ended September 30 rose from £1.62 million to £1.69 million.

London pick-up

Signs of a slight upturn in the London economy have been identified by the London director of the Confederation of British Industry. Improvements at the bottom end of the housing market and a slight increase in telecommunications traffic were indications, it said.

Earnings soar at Securicor

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

SECURICOR, which holds 40 per cent of the Cellnet mobile telephone network, says it would only consider selling this "excellent investment" — which contributed operating profits of £45.9 million in the year to last September — if the price were right.

Securicor's pre-tax profits rose from £33 million to £54.5 million; those of Security Services, in which it owns 50.75 per cent, advanced from £20.4 million to £37 million. Securicor is paying a final dividend of 1.95p, making a total of 2.62p (2.33p), and Services a final of 3.63p, making 5.03p (4.48p).

Roger Wiggs, chief executive, said trading conditions remained tough, but each of the four divisions reported improved trading results. Signs of economic revival remained uncertain, but Mr Wiggs and Chris Shirtcliffe, financial director, expressed cautious optimism about progress this year.

The two companies retained their Siamese-twin relationship, Mr Wiggs said, since the merchant banking community had not produced a sensible plan for fusing them.

The group is "on alert" to tender for government privatisation programmes, including the private running of prisons.

Cellnet is increasing profits and market share, the group says. "If approached to sell our stake, we would talk to our shareholders," Mr Wiggs said. Meanwhile, the group remains happy with the investment. Losses from other communications businesses were trimmed from £9.1 million to £6 million.

Securicor A shares rose 8p to 643p; Security Services' shares were also 8p up, at 543p.



Safe hands: Roger Wiggs, right, and Chris Shirtcliffe

Cray Electronics bounces back

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

THE latest interim results from Cray Electronics confirm the change of fortunes at the high technology group.

Cray ended a three-year absence from the dividend lists in 1992, with a 3p final payment. It is now resuming interim dividends with 1p for the six months to October 31. Pre-tax profits were up from £536,000 to £1.78 million, on turnover of £81.9 million (£40 million). Future dividends are likely to become progressively

larger. The group is now debt-free, and aims to expand its international activities, which already embrace the Far East, Australia and America.

Dowry's information technology division, acquired towards the year end, made a profit contribution of £1.12 million over a two-month period.

Margins of the group's original companies have improved from 5 to 9 per cent, and further improvement is expected. Sir Peter Michael, who became chairman three years ago, hands over in May to Roger Holland, currently deputy chairman. Sir Peter remains with Cray as a non-executive director.

"Trading continues satisfactorily," he says, "and with the operating companies generating cash, we expect the balance sheet to strengthen further."

The shares rose 64p to 133 1/2p.

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COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF		
DEMANS ELECTRICAL Pre-tax £1.52m (£1.25m) EPS: 23.73p (18.75p) Div: 4.3p, mkg 8.1p	Final results. Total dividend last time was 5.85p. Conditions remain difficult, but company is confident of some profits progress this year.	WYKO GROUP (Int) Pre-tax: £121,000 LPS: 0.07p (EPS: 0.68p) Div: 0.5p (1.4p)
NEOTRONICS TECH (Fin) Pre-tax: £3.03m (£2.62m) EPS: 7.65p (7.26p) Div: 1.75p, mkg 2.6p	Last time's total dividend was 2.52p. Turnover rose to £18.3m (£16.1m). Group sales have recovered, after a sluggish start to the year.	JONES, STROUD (Int) Pre-tax: £3.29m (£2.49m) EPS: 12.32p (9.19p) Div: 3.3p (3.0p)
BIRKDALE GROUP (Int) Pre-tax: £494,000 loss LPS: 2.9p (EPS: 0.5p) Div: Nil (nil)	Last time there was a profit of £84,000. Company has acquired 80 per cent of Marketing Solutions for up to £315,000 in shares and cash.	WINDSOR (Fin) Pre-tax: £616,000 EPS: 1.69p (LPS: 3.20p) Div: Nil (nil)
		Last time's profit was £279,000. There was an exceptional charge of £94,000. Total sales increased to £28m (£25.4m).
		Turnover rose to £34.2m (£31.9m). Company anticipates that profits for the year will justify a final dividend of 6.5p (5p).
		Last time there was a loss of £1.21m. There was an exceptional gain of £214,000. Revenue grew by 13 per cent to £7.9m.

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STOCK MARKET

American investors' ardour for BP cools

THE love affair between American investors and BP, Britain's biggest oil company, may be cooling.

The BP price fell 5p to 232p on turnover of almost 7.5 million shares yesterday as the City continued to take an increasingly cautious view of prospects.

Brokers were also quick to point out that the customary welter of American buying of

Lucas Industries finished last square at 149p but brokers say the group remains vulnerable. Talk of a bid, at 200p a share from either TI Group or BTR, continues.

BP shares that usually follow a bout of weakness in the price failed to materialise.

Kleinwort Benson, the stockbroker, has decided to downgrade its estimate of net income for the final quarter to December, 1992. Kleinwort had been looking for a stock profit in the final quarter, but now believes this will turn out to be a loss.

BP's refining margins are

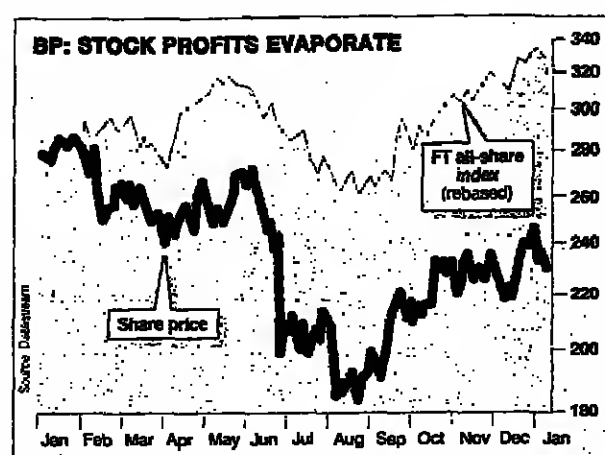
being squeezed and the petrochemical side of the operation is also coming under pressure. BP has already cut its interim dividend. Earlier in the week, Morgan Stanley downgraded its estimates.

The rest of the equity market staged a technical rally although an earlier rise of 26 points was eventually halved after Wall Street made a disappointing start and the March series of the future drifted lower. The FT-SE 100 index ended the session, up 13.9 points, at 2,759.2, with a total of 617 million shares changing hands.

Dealers point out that the market has given back a substantial part of the gains recorded since the new year and think that a technical rally is on the way.

Their optimism is being fed to a certain extent by talk of a cut in bank base rates after publication of today's retail price index. But many fund managers are treating that theory with scepticism and believe that the next drop in interest charges is unlikely until after the Budget.

Among the leaders, Allied-



Lions recovered from an early fall to finish just 1p lighter, at 605p, with the market continuing to speculate on which company will be next to turn to the market for extra funds. Sources close to the company say that it has ruled out asking shareholders for extra funds.

Other candidates mentioned earlier this week include Trafalgar House, up 2p at 89p, and Commercial Union, 2p better at 613p.

ICI was again on an upward tack, with a rise of 20p to

£10.93, helped by Paine Webber, the New York securities house, which has switched its recommendation from a hold to a buy. British Steel mustered a 2p rise to 62p after announcing a price rise of between 4 and 7 per cent for some products. Price rises of between 11 and 13 per cent are planned for the rest of its products. British Steel emphasised that part of the cost of the increases would be offset by the pound's devaluation.

Prices in the European steel market have been depressed for some time by falling demand.

Rank Organisation touched 687p before closing 7p cheaper, at 697p, after reporting a drop in full-year figures from £250.5 million to £230.1 million. The group blamed a disappointing performance by Rank Xerox and £8 million property provisions for the setback. The dividend was maintained. Michael Gifford, chief executive, said that the group was close to disposing of 17 of its remaining hotels.

TSB Group rose 10p to 156p despite some figures at the lower end of expectations. The group returned to the black with pre-tax profits of £43 million for the full year compared with a deficit last time of £47 million. The dividend has been maintained and paid out of reserves.

Provisions were also down from £554 million to £597 million. But analysts had been looking for a better performance and claim that the group remains vulnerable to takeover. The group says that conditions are still tough and

expects to continue suffering from bad debts.

National Westminster rose 9p to 408p, helped by the announcement of record fourth-quarter figures from its American subsidiary, NatWest Bancorp, where net income jumped to \$50.1 million compared with a loss of \$29.8 million last time. The chairman and chief executive of BOC group told shareholders

82W says buy BT, unchanged at 386p, ahead of the self-off. It says 11 of the top 20 listed companies are underweight and would need 600 million shares to achieve their targets.

ers at the annual meeting the economic outlook was not very cheerful, but helped by currency factors the group should have "a reasonably strong first quarter when compared with last year". The shares, recommended by Smith New Court and NatWest Securities, rose 8 pence to 746.

MICHAEL CLARK

Wall Street blue chips turned lower by mid-morning, driven by earnings results. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.62 points, at 3,265.18, after a 3,279.23 high. JP Morgan was off 2 1/2 points to 62 1/2, but the broad market was held together by firmness

in secondary, technology and airline sectors. JP Morgan said that its Q4 trading results were hurt largely by losses on trading mortgage-backed securities. The Nikkei average ended, down 2.31 points, at 16,515.60. (Reuters)

BRITISH FUNDS

THE latest bond auction, announced by the Bank of England earlier this week, continued to overshadow the rest of the gilt market.

Prices again traded in narrow limits throughout the session with investors anxiously looking for a new direction.

On the futures market, the March series of the long gilt fluctuated between par and its support level of £99 1/2 for touch of the day before ending six ticks higher at £99 7/8.

In the cash market, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 firmed a couple of ticks to £100 1/4, while at the shorter end, Exchequer 9 1/4 per cent 1998 was up four ticks at £109 7/8.

Investors are hoping that a better than expected retail price index will provide a boost to prices later today, but talk of a cut in interest rates after the figures is being treated sceptically.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25
100	99	100% 100	100	0.01	6.25

LONGS (over 15 years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97
111	110	111% 111	111	0.01	8.97

UNDATED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58
29	28	29% 29	29	0.01	8.58

INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	Yield
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49
131	130	131% 131	131	0.01	9.49

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	Price	Change
Net West	409p	(+11p)
Carton Comm	802p	(+13p)
Man United	377p	(+10p)
Manpower	911p	(+18p)
Serco Group	763p	(+13p)
ICI	1093p	(+20p)
Laporte	615p	(+13p)
Liberty	671p	(+28p)
Cherning	953p	(+10p)
Gesteira	152p	(+10p)
Thames TV	184p	(+19p)

FALLS:

Price	Change
Whessoe	299p (-18p)
Gleco	714p (-10p)
Rank Org	695p (-9p)

Closing Prices Page 25

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
Crichtley Group (220)	277	...
Foreign & Col PEP Int	105	...
Hoare Govett Smir Index	106	...
Hunters Armley (90)	111	...
Int'l Food Machinery (51)	60	-1
Jos Holdings Capital	38	...
Jos Holdings Income	94	...
Jos Zero Div P	111	...
National Express (165)	190	-1
ONS Int Inspection (50)	55	...
Prime People Warrants	14	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
Hillcare n/p (35)	3	...
Melville n/p (5)	1	...
Property Trust n/p (25)	14	...
Regal Hotel n/p (2)	1	...
Trio Holdings n/p (50)	13	...
West Trust n/p (3)	1	...

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Gatt teams sit on their hands and wait for Clinton to roll in

The Uruguay round may be way past its deadline, but Colin Narbrough believes the new man in the White House will be in no rush to sign

After six long years, bleary-eyed negotiations struggling to bring the world trade talks to a happy end might be forgiven a little cynicism, indeed ire, over the behaviour of the Bush administration in its dying days. Having lost the presidential race, George Bush appeared desperate to notch up as many successes as possible on the international stage, including a last-minute trade deal, before Bill Clinton takes over on Wednesday.

As seamless as the presidential handover process is supposed to be, it would appear that President Bush's high-powered team at the Uruguay round negotiations in Geneva has had its progress dislocated by the lack of guiding signals from the Clinton camp. When it became apparent this week, that American negotiators were in no position to sow up a decisive package of deals before inauguration day, there was little surprise that President Bush turned his attention to one assured success: a surgical air strike against Iraq in the name of the United Nations. Free trade was always harder to sell than the punishing of tyrants.

For all the hopes raised about delivering the Clinton administration a pre-packed agreement that would radically liberalise international trade, to go with the new political world order, the logic of rushing the trade pact has been questioned for some time. If such a deal did not enjoy the wholehearted blessing of the incoming administration, it would have to be unimpeached. The European Community, America's main protagonist at the negotiating table of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), has naturally been disinclined to concede much at all to a lame duck regime. Furthermore, the fierce resistance by France to the deal on agricultural subsidies, between Brussels and Washington in November, has helped counter much of the EC's declared urgency.

Arthur Dunkel, the long-serving director-general of GATT, has persistently argued against delay. To prolong the agony, he argues, would expose the achievements of the Uruguay round to the risk of unravelling. In spite of having overshot its original completion target date of 1990, and subsequent deadlines, the round has achieved an impressive body of consensus, given that any agreement between 108 countries is inevitably difficult. The text of a "draft final act", submitted by Mr Dunkel over a year ago, remains the preferred basis for any final agreement among GATT negotiators. Its advocates have accepted, despite any national misgivings, that there can be no dining *à la carte*, as that would probably result in the carefully-balanced ingredients falling apart.

Opponents of a deal *à la Dunkel* contend that there can be no economic or political sense in conceding anything substantial for the sake of meeting artificial deadlines.

Months, or even years, of talks would not necessarily undo what has been achieved. Without waiting for the GATT round to end, many countries, especially in Latin America, have lowered their protectionist walls. Even Mr Dunkel has predicted that if the Uruguay round were actually to founder, particular governments would soon have to reinvent it.

Since GATT was established in 1947, world trade has multiplied 12-fold. In an ever more integrated world economy, particularly at times like these, of widespread weakness, flourishing trade is seen as an important contributor to growth. Where earlier GATT rounds focused on trade in manufactures, the current negotiations are carrying free trade into the untouched areas of agricultural goods, services and intellectual property. Having reduced tariffs by about 40 per cent already, the GATT round aims to lower



Tight-lipped: so far, President-elect Clinton has given little away in terms of his policies for trade

tariffs on industrial goods by another third. Ending import exceptions to free trade, developing rules for fair competition, and establishing a new world trade body are other important goals.

Mr Dunkel's decision on Tuesday to postpone the meeting, originally scheduled for today, of the trade negotiations committee (TNC), the steering body of the trade round, was presented as a way to allow delegates time. But the American delegation left no doubt that progress towards a last-minute deal on reducing tariffs had been insignificant. The TNC meeting, now to be held on the eve of the Clinton inauguration, promises to be a sterile affair.

A quick deal on tariff reductions between America and the Community, primarily blocked by discord over the

nature of such cuts. The Europeans oppose the Americans' push for zero tariffs on a broad front, while the Americans, concerned about their voracious textiles lobby, were not prepared to see high tariff barriers in key sectors chopped by 50 per cent. Even if the big picture provided by the Dunkel paper were to win approval, the multilateral liberalisation process has still to be supplemented by bilateral deals — a time-consuming business.

The question now is whether the Clinton team, which does not appear to have a protectionist leaning, will try to beat the deadline of March 2, when the "fast-track" authority for presidential approval of a GATT deal expires. Had the Bush administration been returned, there would have been a distinct political case for dashing past the gate. Given his support in Congress, President Clinton should have no problem renewing the mandate without clause-by-clause examination of the deal on Capitol Hill.

To date, the Clinton camp has given little away in terms of trade policy, apart from stressing its commitment to ensuring that any deal would be "fair" for Americans. At his meeting with Carlos Salinas, the president-elect made clear that the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) between America, Canada and Mexico would require additional guarantees regarding the environment and workers'

rights. Though yet to address the GATT issue directly, every indication is that the new administration will want to give itself time to scrutinise what has been agreed so far. In the meantime, the lobbyists, from textiles to soybeans, are sharpening their swords.

Deadlock at the Uruguay round talks prompted President Bush to seek comfort in the regional free trade option of Nafta. With the arrival of a single European market and similar regional arrangements elsewhere, it might have seemed a good fall-back position to pursue. The Clinton presidency is, however, unlikely to want a regionalist option in lieu of an ambitious GATT agreement. Besides the fact that liberalised regional trade in today's world can probably be little more than a stepping stone to wider free-trade relations, multilateral policies have a vital role to play in the Clinton master-plan for revitalising American industry.

Where Washington, much to its trading partners' annoyance, has had to rely heavily on trade sanctions to secure a level playing field for American exporters, the Clinton team's intention to give government a domestic role in fostering more competitive industry means that America will need to be less reliant on its external trade weapons in defence of national interests. It will still probably balk at the loss of sovereignty that the creation of a muscular world trade organisation would signify. In the final analysis, however, America, as a reduced economic power, will probably find playing international trade rules, rather than its own, will serve its best interests. Being the UN's military flagship clearly worked in the Gulf.

Even if the Uruguay round were to founder, governments would soon have to reinvent it

TEMPUS

Rank shuns bid interest

MICHAEL Gifford, Rank Organisation's plain-speaking chief executive, says he is happy to sell both his grandmothers and, at the right price, he will also reveal the location of their mortal remains. But he will not sell Rank's film and television interests, despite well-informed whispers that Chemical Bank is putting together the funding for a consortium bid.

This apparent intransigence looks like an attempt to drive the price up and reassure staff, customers and clients in the tightly knit film industry. Mr Gifford knows as well as the next director that his fiduciary duties include the requirement to consider any sensible offer for part of the business.

Full-year figures from Rank yesterday suggest Mr Gifford need be in no hurry to do a deal. Stated debts rose slightly, but the fall in sterling masked a £60 million fall in the underlying figures, while interest on the £1.2 billion debt is still covered more than three times by operating profits. Other disposals, including the hotel business should improve

the cash position further, while unused debt facilities of up to £400 million do not suggest a company in desperate need of a cash injection.

Any consortium is unlikely to bid for the entire film division, which in reality is a mixed bag of disparate operations. The video duplication business pushed profits ahead by £10 million last year and the separate video distribution side is not far off profitability, even though it lost £15 million last year. Rank could easily retain both as free-standing businesses within its existing structure.

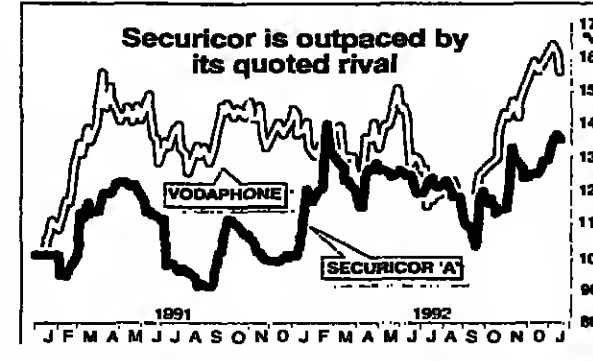
The consortium is being told in no uncertain terms that the bidding for the rest, a high-prestige chunk of much of the remaining British film industry including the Odeon cinema chain and Pinewood studios, should start somewhere north of £400 million, even though this represents more than 22 times' after-tax earnings of an estimated £26 million. Even Hollywood moguls and their assorted financial backers may not have pockets quite that deep.

Securicor

SELLING a business that contributes 90 per cent of profits and produces an operating margin of more than 40 per cent sounds like commercial suicide, particularly in a recession.

Yet Securicor still talks of disposing of its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, the cellular phone operator. And shareholders should be praying it does. The group would get at least £675 million for its stake, netting shareholders perhaps £2 per share in a one-off dividend. All for a company valued at £55 million in the balance sheet.

Securicor management has other good reasons to sell. A company is never comfortable when its share price is dictated by factors beyond its control. BT runs the cellular show, Securicor just picks up the dividend cheques. There



are strategic advantages too. The cellular phone duopoly with Vodafone has been lucrative, but the market is set to become more competitive with companies such as Mercury diving in. When the new entrants try to buy market share through lower prices, those margins will be squeezed.

Securicor has other quality businesses that would benefit

TSB

U-TURNS rarely come sharper than TSB's decision to dress Hill Samuel up for market. For years, Sir Nicholas Goodison has explained the benefits of owning this fine institution and how the group will rebuild its reputation and profitability. Now he is ready to accept the first decent offer that turns up.

The wrapping round the merchant bank is highly attractive: £1.8 billion of its bad debts have been surgically removed, leaving a pristine loan book and a profit of £54 million. This will fall by about £10 million in future years when some remaining loans inevitably turn sour.

The decision to tout for a buyer is bizarre. TSB will be left to sort out all Hill Samuel's worst lending decisions and lose an operation with a decent fund management and corporate finance business that could one day make a reasonable contribution. Without the bank, TSB will be restricted to an increasingly competitive British retail financial market.

Peter Ellwood, TSB's new chief executive, has promised the bank will make a 15 per cent return on capital within four years, equivalent to a pre-tax profit of £350 million.

From here, that target looks as realistic as opening a branch on Venus, since the bad debts from Hill Samuel and Mortgage Express will drag the bank down for years. The easiest way for the bank to lower its sights would be to return some of its excess capital to shareholders.

Siemens

FALLING orders, staff cuts and slowing earnings — Siemens' first-quarter figures bear the classic hallmarks of a major industrial group on the brink of a recession.

The market was relieved that Siemens did not reveal any unpleasant cash holes in its loss-making computers or semiconductor divisions. Investors were also heartened that the group said it would take a major effort to maintain profits at last year's level. The teutonic implication is that a company like Siemens can achieve major efforts.

Siemens however is beginning to feel some chilly economic winds. Almost half the group's sales come from within Germany, and the 7 per cent fall in orders to DM19 billion marks is a sign that investment in telecoms and power generation is falling.

The group is trimming its

Cray Electronics

CRAY Electronics, the software and communications group, has been laughing all the way to the bank since it bought Dowty IT division for £50 million last July.

The new business has made pre-tax profits of £1.1 million on turnover of £30 million in its first two months alone. If Cray achieves its target of a 10 per cent margin on Dowty it will add an extra £4.7 million or 19 per cent to the full-year bottom line.

Shareholders, tapped for £39 million in a rights issue to fund the acquisition, should feel a warm glow.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sainsburys given food for thought

PRESUMABLY hoping that they do not now face a similar fate as that which has befallen some previous recipients of the award — who include Sir Ralph Halpern, Gerald Ratner and George Davies — the Sainsbury family has accepted the 1992 Natwest Securities Retailer of the Year award. Lord Sainsbury and David Sainsbury jointly won 16.6 per cent of the vote — cast by retailers, institutional fund managers and industry analysts — followed by David Dworkin of Storehouse with 14.6 per cent and David Jones of Next with 13.5 per cent. Tony MacNery, NatWest's food retailing analyst, says: "The strength of the combined voting for the Sainsburys clearly recognises Lord Sainsbury's contribution, during his 23 years as chairman of the family business, to creating the pre-eminent food retailer in the UK, if not the world."

The award, accepted by new chairman David Sainsbury, was a wicker hamper. MacNery explains that the Sainsburys use a converted Chevrolet car as a mobile office, but that it has no bar or fridge. His colleague John Richards adds: "We wanted to fill it with Sainsbury's products, but we couldn't find a Sainsbury's so we filled it with

Tesco prawn sandwiches instead. He can use them for market research."

Main chance

KEITH Clark, one of the candidates in the election for senior partner last time round, has finally landed the top job at the giant law firm Clifford Chance. Clark, 48, and described by colleagues as "energetic, dynamic and charming", will take over from Nigel Fox Bassett on May 1 for a five-year term. Meanwhile, Fox Bassett, a popular figure in the firm, will "retire" while still retaining an office and the services of a secretary in the firm's vast new Aldersgate Street building. "I am right up against my retirement date," Fox Bassett explains. "Our retirement age is officially 61,

but because of the merger [of Clifford Turner with Coward Chance] it was agreed that I would do a three-year stint which ends in April. To help keep him out of mischief, he has accepted an invitation from the Treasury to become, with effect from May 1, a part-time member of the Building Societies Commission. He will also continue with various honorary roles in the legal world.

Out of the news

AS DAVID Burnside, the PR supremo at British Airways, emerges from what must be one of the most testing weeks in corporate public relations history, he is clearly able to keep his company's highly publicised fracas with Virgin Atlantic in some sort of perspective. Burnside, along with the other 38 full-time employees in the BA PR department, is still handcuffed by lawyers, effectively preventing him from putting his side of the story to the press. He is not, however, a man to be easily beaten. "Since I have not been allowed to talk about anything relating to the litigation this week, I have used what little influence I have left to start another Gulf war and to gain as wide a circulation as possible for the Camillagate tape in Fleet Street — I had to get us off the front page somehow," he says with a wry smile. "It

was not easy, but I think I have had some degree of success."

Called to account

SOTHEBY'S seems unsure how much it is owed by account customers, who have just received the following missive. "In September we changed computer systems and we were not able to send out the September statements. I am certain you will appreciate that with the implementation of a new system, errors are inevitable. Consequently, we would very much appreciate your bringing to our attention anything on your statement which you feel is not correct. "It's not good enough," thunder one client. "Where would we be if aircraft engineers had the same attitude?"

Changing places

TONGUES are still wagging at Harry's Bar in Edinburgh, watering hole for brokers at Bell Laurie White. Despite the company's assurance that Gilmour Thom, a director, was expected back after the Christmas holiday, he has not reappeared. Instead, rival broker Roderick Sutherland & Partners confirms that he will start work there next month, joining former BLW colleague John Brown.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Let utilities mind their own business

From Mr Graham Lea
Sir, Tempus, referring to Dixon's complaint against electricity companies' retail activities (January 13), asks if there is any difference between such activities and those of conglomerates who cross-subsidise their activities.

There is. Where a utility monopoly invests what is in effect its excess profits in non-core businesses, the consumer suffers by paying higher than necessary prices for the utility supply, so making British industry less competitive.

British Gas is investing substantially in Argentina: British Telecom has speculative investments in the US, and, for some extraordinary reason, is publishing street maps of the UK; the electricity companies

Gloomy outlook for British manufacturing

From W. Walton
Sir, Mr A. P. Scott (January 7) states that "the CBI National Manufacturing Council report clearly identified the challenge facing UK manufacturing in closing this performance gap".

Identified? The fundamental weakness of UK manufacturing industry has been "identified" and discussed *ad nauseam* for the past 50 years but, obviously, otherwise ignored.

We have now come to a pass; can the UK afford to

Wrong posting for Abbey shares

From Dr Gari P. Owen
Sir, In addition to your earlier correspondence (December 10, December 15 and January 8), I believe that I am in yet another category of people who did not receive Abbey National shares.

This category is those who used the full local address of a British installation overseas rather than its corresponding military postal designation (BFTO number).

Evidence that the two are one and the same location was not accepted.

This is the most expensive postal mistake that I have ever made.

Yours faithfully,
GARI P. OWEN,
76 Rochester Avenue,
Bromley,
Kent.

Question to DTI was misdirected

From Miss Gertrud Seidmann
Sir, I am amazed Sarah Adler (January 9) tried, in vain, to get the address of a German retailers' federation from the DTI and the British Embassy in Bonn.

Why didn't she ring the German embassy — one local call?

Yours faithfully,
GERTRUD SEIDMANN,
22 Victoria Road,
Oxford.

We require

ply to Watson Ltd
31 Fifth Street
London W1V 5TL

[illegible][illegible]

INFOTECH

Chapter and voice on CD

The game of the film of the book: Matthew May keys in to a new form of entertainment

Using a computer screen to read a book strikes most people as taking high technology to absurd lengths. After all, the printed version is convenient, portable, provides less strain on the eyes and does not require bulky, expensive equipment in order to enjoy it.

Those who predict that in the next century electronic books will take over from their printed cousins are often dismissed as just plain daft. But what if these electronic books are enhanced so that they can provide such extras as moving pictures and illustrations on demand, and sound effects, or music, automatically activated as certain passages are read?

Such tricks have already been used to good effect for encyclopaedias and other reference books, where a computer's ability to jump instantly to a particular entry and to mix sound and moving pictures with text has proved popular. And what can take an entire row of a bookshelf can easily be put on a single computerised version of a compact disc.

These ideas have recently been applied to some works of fiction — a difficult task. Few people want to do more than read a novel from start to finish — the ability to jump instantly to the middle of chapter 17 is rarely in demand and rather an expensive facility if used only as a sort of electronic bookmark.

Jurassic Park, for example, is a science fiction novel by Michael Crichton that describes the havoc unleashed when dinosaurs are genetically re-created for a theme park of the future. Readers of an "enhanced" electronic version can call up pictures of any of the beasts described in the novel with — if the computer is well-equipped — suitable sound effects.

Through these extra facilities are still primitive, electronic books are likely to become more sophisticated as moving pictures and sound play a bigger role. The result will be products that are somewhere in between book and film.

Jurassic Park is also to be made available as a new type of computer



Fantasy becomes reality: with an interactive format of the film, *Jurassic Park*, the viewer will be able to change the plot

game, based on the film of the book, which has been directed by Steven Spielberg and is due for release in the United Kingdom this July.

The difference with *Jurassic Park*, the computer game, is that it will come billed as the world's first really interactive film aimed for use in the home, and with the promise that players will be able to insert themselves into digitised scenes from the film and then control and alter the plot.

Some types of what is often described as "interactive multimedia" have been available in the business world for several years, but outside rather dry and specialist uses, such as training packages, the idea has yet to catch on as an essential office desktop product.

The difference this year is that consumer electronics and computer companies fervently hope the technology will soon be suitable for home use and provide the basis for a new generation of home entertainment equipment.

Waiting in the wings are film studios and publishers ready to prepare interactive versions of

their work if the concept catches on. "This is a time to feel good again about the future," says Gary Shapiro, the executive director of the US Electronics Industry Association, at the opening of the winter Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas last week.

One of the best-supported ideas comes from a Silicon Valley company, 3DO, which is preparing a £500 "multiplayer" to go on sale in the summer. It will play games and educational software, audio CDs and even photo CDs, a recent development that puts family snaps on a CD that can then be called up on a television set. Future planned attachments will allow it to show films, edit videotapes and "interact" with cable television.

The reason that people are listening to an unknown company with such ideas is that those backing it include giants such as Matsushita, AT & T and Time Warner, all willing to give it a go.

Using a 32-bit microprocessor rather than the more usual 16-bit will, 3DO says, allow far more realistic three-dimensional graphics, where the shape and shading of

images will be able to change far faster than existing software.

It should also provide a better likeness of people, such as characters appearing in a digitised version of a popular film. The computer game version of *Jurassic Park* will appear on 3DO's machine.

He hopes is that the device will break out of being seen as just a games console or, worse, just a computer. "The interactive multi-player is not just for kids and nerds," argues Trip Hawkins, the chief executive of 3DO. "This will be a consumer product, like a video-cassette recorder."

Wishful thinking, say some analysts, who claim that if the initially high prices do not put off customers, incompatibilities between rival systems will.

Already Commodore has CDTV, Philips has CD Interactive and Tandy has the video information system. And more systems are under development. IBM, Microsoft and Apple have their own plans for multimedia. Not to be left out,

Sega and Nintendo have CD additions to their games players and Pioneer has announced an interactive system based on dusting off the laser disc.

One problem for potential customers is that companies have formed groups to back a particular format, which is likely to restrict consumer choice.

The film, *Jurassic Park*, for example, comes from MCA's Universal Studios. MCA is a subsidiary of Matsushita Electric, an investor in 3DO, which will have *Jurassic Park*, the computer game.

Unlike audio CDs, where the latest Michael Jackson or Madonna album is available to anyone, regardless of what brand of player they own, multimedia for the home is likely to provide certain software titles only to purchasers of one brand of player.

But the idea of multimedia consoles for the home needs all the help it can get. If would-be customers discover that any selection of multimedia software they are interested in requires them to buy more than one machine, then prospects are bleak.

Slump hits IT

THE amount spent on information technology in Europe this year will grow by only a "minuscule" 0.4 per cent, according to CSC Index, a firm of consultants. Instead, it says, both European and American companies will work with existing technologies rather than experiment with unproven ones.

A survey of more than 400 companies found that over half of them cited technology that links the personal computers of people working in groups as the emerging area of greatest interest. More recent ones, such as pen based computers, multimedia and video-conferencing, came well down the list.

Small adjustment

MITSUBISHI is to stop developing general-purpose mainframe computers and concentrate on selling software and smaller computers. Many companies that once bought big mainframe computers have instead started "downsizing" — buying a network of increasingly powerful smaller computers.

The company's mainframe division is smaller than those of its competitors — such as Fujitsu, Hitachi and NEC — and has lost money for years.

East to west

A GROUP of Russian computer enthusiasts is to start a monthly newsletter next month, aimed at the Western market.

Behind the idea are Victor Beggar and Valery Levchenko, who formed a company last year to promote Russian computer expertise to the West and to advise foreigners wanting to sell their computer products in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Written in Moscow and published by Norton Key Publishing, an Oxfordshire firm, *The Russian File* promises a free demonstration disc of Russian software with every issue.

Real genesis

SEGA is to sell a "virtual reality" attachment for its Genesis video game machine. The device will include technology that has been available only for research strategy and training by the National Aeronautics

and Space Administration and the military. The device will presumably include some kind of goggles-like device hooked to the game player. Virtual Sega will be available in the autumn with just one software title initially.

Boning up

DOCTORS are pioneering computer technology to look inside patients undergoing plastic and bone surgery.

Scientists of the Phoenix research project at University College Hospital in London have created computer-modelling software to analyse skin formation and bone structure. It interprets data on screen as a three-dimensional image, which is rotated so a detailed assessment can be made of the surgery required.



Class acts

THE USE of technology in education will be on display next week at BETT 93. The show will take place at London's Olympia from Wednesday to Saturday. No children will be allowed.

Further information: 071-404 4844

Trimming down

PRODIGY, the largest computer-information service in the US, has laid off a quarter of its staff in a restructuring aimed at making it profitable.

The joint venture by IBM and Sears Roebuck began nationwide operation in 1990. But Prodigy has yet to show a profit, although its subscriber base now exceeds two million.

Prodigy offers personal-computer users a variety of information and entertainment products, including news, share quotes and games.

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One eastern Europe state is the world's fifth largest software exporter

Miklos Rabar measures his computer transmission speeds in miles per hour rather than kilobytes per second. As the director of information technology for Allami Biztosito (AB), Hungary's biggest insurance company, his task is to computerise 200 branch offices and eight million policies held throughout the country.

One of his biggest problems is the unreliability of Hungary's telephone system. Instead of sending data over the telephone lines, staff at AB branches load them on to floppy discs and take them to the regional data processing centres by motor car.

However, although the telecommunications network may be primitive compared with that of the West, much of the technology being deployed in Hungary, eastern Europe's most advanced market, is world-class.

"Eastern Europe must not be regarded as a dumping ground for the outmoded equipment of Western companies," George Balazs, the sales and marketing manager for Digital Equipment in Hungary, says. "We still get calls from sales people asking whether we can shift their stockpile of ten-megabyte disc drives."

Hungarian customers are not interested in old technology, even if it is free, he says. "Quite the opposite. The common thinking is that countries which accept old technology will never be competitive."

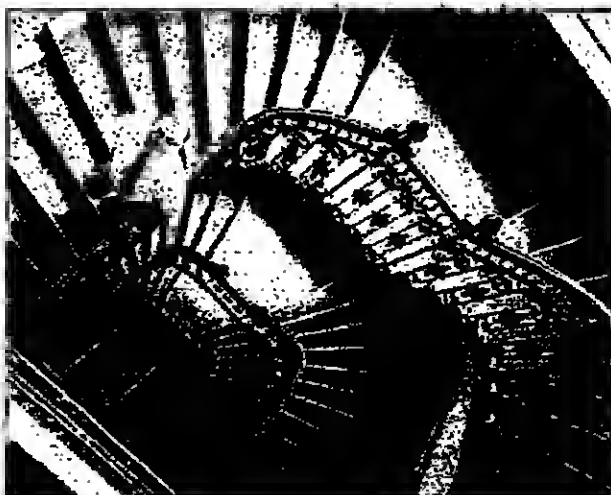
Nor are the Hungarians lacking in skills. The country which produced the Rubik cube and John von Neumann, the architect of the modern computer, is the world's fifth largest exporter of software.

Lack of cash and regulations from the West, which restricted the flow of strategically sensitive technology, have held back the supply of large-scale computers. However, this has made them experts in maximising the use of small machines.

As Western companies wrestle with the problems of downsizing and open systems, Hungary is forging ahead. For years it has had to devise software capable of squeezing every last ounce of power from personal computers, and programming whatever machines were available so that they could talk to each other.

The financial services industry

Hungary's mother of invention



Giant steps: Miklos Rabar will not accept second-best

try is pioneering computing in Hungary, aware that overseas rivals will storm its home market if it fails to keep pace.

One of the first sectors to be liberalised was the insurance market when the old state monopoly was split in two in 1986. AB picked up the life, home and accident business, while responsibility for the commercial, international and car insurance was handled by a spin-off company.

Just about everything at AB was wrong. There were too many products and policies, premiums were too low and administration was too complex. Computers to support the business were virtually nonexistent. Six years later the company has a portfolio of new pension and home insurance products, and it competes with its former colleagues in car insurance.

Computers have made the transformation possible, but it has not been easy. Mr Rabar says. He has frequently found that although the West had the technology, it did not have all the answers. Most lessons had to be learnt on the job.

Faced with the unreliability of the telephone system and the West's embargo on computer mainframe sales, AB decided to computerise indi-

vidual branches, treating 200 separate "islands" of automation. In 1988, about 800 PCs were acquired, running the standard MS-DOS operating system and a proprietary database. Central processing functions were subcontracted to a computer bureau.

It quickly became apparent that MS-DOS could not cope and the database was insufficiently flexible to handle the fast-changing competitive environment. By 1990, AB had decided to switch to Unix, a much more powerful operating system, which had emerged from an academic and scientific background.

The advent of more powerful processors and looser trading regulations in the West, enabled AB to bring the central processing functions

in-house on a more powerful minicomputer and to replace the database program with software from Oracle, of America.

The problem was that despite its power, Unix was still ill-adapted to a commercial environment such as insurance. Mr Rabar also had difficulty tracking down Unix experts in the West who could advise him. Another problem materialised when AB tried to use the latest software-development tools, they still contained errors.

"We learnt never to use the latest version of a software product. You end up being the pioneers who discover all the bugs. It was several months before we realised that one problem we were having was due to faulty software," Mr Rabar says.

As AB discovered, some systems are more open than others. "Connecting Olivetti and ICL products is more complicated than one would have expected," Mr Rabar adds. Working out how much processor power was required also proved difficult.

"We realised that estimates, declarations and advice are useless without tests and benchmarks," Mr Rabar says. Retraining all the programmers caused further delays.

To overcome the unreliable telephone lines in Hungary, AB plans to install a network of small satellite dishes later this year. This would put it ahead of many countries in Western Europe, where resistance from indigenous telecom operators has restricted the spread of so-called VSAT (very small aperture terminal) networks. Hungary would then become a pioneer of the much heralded integration of computers and telecommunications.

JANE BIRD

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OPERA page 28

Sally Burgess is a vibrant Carmen in the English National Opera revival at the Coliseum

ARTS

TELEVISION page 29

Rod Stewart: his Seventies appearances are on show again in a new BBC 2 series

GALLERIES: Richard Cork on the strength in depth of the Royal Academy's winter show of British watercolours

Awash with insight and invention

Dimly lit and predictable in size, watercolours can make disastrously dull exhibitions. When strung out along the gallery walls like a series of specimens in a botanical display, they lack the variety and sheer physical impact of a show devoted to oil paintings. We have become accustomed, since the second world war, to canvases and sculpture of colossal, attention-grabbing dimensions. So what chance have modest watercolours in comparison, especially when they suffer from the in-built blight of foxing or fading?

The question formed in my mind as I approached the Royal Academy's epic winter exhibition, *The Great Age of British Watercolours*. Concentrating on the vintage period between 1750 and 1880, and relying on the cumulative power of well over 300 prime examples, the survey risks overkill. At first, confronted by the prospect of room after closely-hung room decorated in shades of blue, I felt daunted. The show would have benefited from slimming, so that the sense of repetition could be avoided.

But this exhibition has an enthralling story to tell. Nowadays, the word "watercolour" is too often equated with the curse of genteel amateurs who, dabbling delicately yet without any flair on damp weekends in the country, have given the medium an enfeebled reputation. But in the hands of a consummate practitioner, watercolour is able to become infinitely flexible, ranging from the most sparing of washes to dense and ebullient elaboration.

Nowhere was its true potential explored with more gusto and resourcefulness than in Britain. Like the Dutch oil painters who sprang up in such abundance throughout 17th-century Holland, British watercolourists became astonishingly fertile just over 100 years later. And they transformed their chosen medium, with prodigious speed, from minor status to fully fledged professionalism, backed up by exhibiting societies, avid patronage and enthusiastic critical attention.

Alexander Cozens, the artist who did most to pioneer the medium's extended possibilities, conducted his explorations with extraordinary freedom. The brown and black washes summarising his *Mountain Peaks* are boldly blotted on the prepared paper. They have an almost oriental simplicity, even while subscribing to Claudian precepts about landscape composition.

In terms of mark-making, they could hardly be more opposed to the linear stringency of Francis Towne, whose stripped, austere summaries of Mont Blanc or Lake Geneva are admirably rigorous. At times, Towne appears to anticipate the early abstractionists. He is a quiet revolutionary, but his calmness distinguishes him from the emotional range of his great contemporary, John Robert Cozens.



Romantic focus for meditation: in this study of Kidwelly Castle, Carmarthenshire, 1832-3, by Turner, "a dream of medieval power threatens to dissolve in light"

Building with assurance on the achievements of his father Alexander, Cozens fils opened up the language of watercolour to a revelatory extent. Compared with Towne's *Lake Albano with Castel Gandolfo*, Cozens's view of the same landscape is filled with inky foreboding. The forms are almost obscured by the waning of the day, and he regards their near-extinction with disquiet.

Because we know that Cozens succumbed to incurable mental illness in his early forties, the dark tenor of his work can easily be exaggerated. But he liberated the British watercolour by allowing it to become a vehicle for intense feeling.

John Sell Cotman, who emerges as one of the exhibition's giants, is particularly expressive. Although a disciplined understanding of formal order underpins everything, Cotman responded to his subjects with passion. The superbly controlled design informing *Croyland Abbey, Lincolnshire* is countered by an acute awareness of the apocalyptic clouds swirling above the ruins.

Cotman was also alive to the changes then transforming the newly industrialised country. Around 1802, he juxtaposed the

great tower of St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol, rising into the clarity of a dawn sky, with the squat mass of a smoking kiln in the darkness. The monuments of medieval England were being threatened by harbingers of a grimy new age.

Turner, whose mature work dominates the later stages of the show, took the theme of change to a spectacular extreme as a young man. With the zeal of an instinctive reporter, he depicted the burnt-out shell of the Pantheon in Oxford Street soon after a calamitous fire. Icicles still hang from the facade of the gutted building after the hose-water from on the walls.

Most watercolourists, though, opted for a gentler, less sensationalist approach — see Michael "Angel" Rooker and Peter de Wint. Ruins quickly became a favourite Romantic focus for meditation. In Turner's exalted *Kidwelly Castle, Carmarthenshire* a dream of medieval power threatens to dissolve in light when set against the frailty of the itinerants admiring the scene.

'Nowhere was the potential of watercolour explored as it was in Britain'

Often, the figures included in a landscape are content to savour the countryside's placidity, like the fisherman leaning contentedly on a post in Bonington's supremely unruffled river view. If the visionaries had been given their rightful amount of space, in the show, humanity would be more prominent.

Blake's complex allegory, *The Sea of Time and Place* swarms with figures, riding the waves, embracing horses in the sky and undulating round the exposed roots of aspiring trees.

Blake turned watercolour into a powerful means of conveying symbolic hallucinations, but neither he nor Palmer is given the place he deserves. Palmer's miraculous valley of vision at Shoreham is confined to three images, none of them showing the artist at his ecstatic best.

Indeed, both he and Blake are outgunned by a large, grandiose John Martin, revelling in *The Destruction of Pharaoh's Host*. Unashamedly over the top, this flashy seascape fit by a blood-orange sun is little more than a Cecil B. DeMille special effect. But here it presides over the true visionaries, and they suffer unfairly.

I suspect that the show's organisers, Andrew Wilson and Anne Lyles, are more closely involved with the restraint of the tragically short-lived Girtin. He is given a generous share of outstanding pictures, and they disclose his mastery of urban as well as rural subjects.

Like Cotman and Cozens, he bases his Romanticism on a tough foundation of neo-classical order. But the compositional risks taken in a work like *Coast of Dorset near Lulworth Cove*, with its strongly impacted diagonals, are audacious. And gradually, Girtin reveals himself as a man alert to even the most fugitive mysteries of light.

The supreme Girtin on display here chooses the moment when dusk spreads fast over the Thames at Chelsea. The skeletal silhouettes of sailing boats can just be dis-

cerned on the water, and so can the windmill almost engulfed by a down cloud. Only the isolated white house on the riverbank resists the gloom. Struck full-on by the departing sun, it blazes among the deep blue-green uniformity of the deadened surroundings.

Girtin knows, better than anyone, how fleeting this bleached beacon and its attenuated reflection will be. But by deploying the resources of his medium with limpid subtlety, he gives this moment of sudden revelation an unforced permanence. A more seductive manifestation of watercolour's highest refinement would be impossible to imagine.

The Great Age of British Watercolours 1750-1880 at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 071-43974381 until April 12, daily 10am-6pm. Admission £5, concessions £3.40. Sponsored by Martini and Rossi.

CHOICE GALLERIES

● **HUMOUR FROM SHELL** During the Thirties especially, Shell was famous for employing virtually every significant painter and draughtsman then working to design its posters and advertisements. Not only that, but the publicity campaigns were devised with an admirable lack of pomposity; indeed, almost all the art work was designed to make potential customers smile first, and then consider buying. This show too is devoted to artists who could see the funny side, such as Edward Bawden, and includes original art work for a wide variety of uses. Foyer Galleries, Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 071-928 3002 Daily 10am-10pm, until Feb 7.

● **THE GLASS SHOW** A part of the overall craft revival which has been very prominent since the Sixties is the making of art works in glass. This is the first major retrospective, covering the 25 years from the arrival of Sam Herman at the Royal College, and his introduction of techniques which enabled designers to work with the hot glass themselves. This changed the face of British glass-making, and opened the way to such figures as Steven Newell, Diana Hobson and Rachel Woodman. Crafts Council Gallery 44A Pentonville Road, N1 071-278 7700 Tues-Sat 11am-6pm, Sunday 2-6pm until March 7.

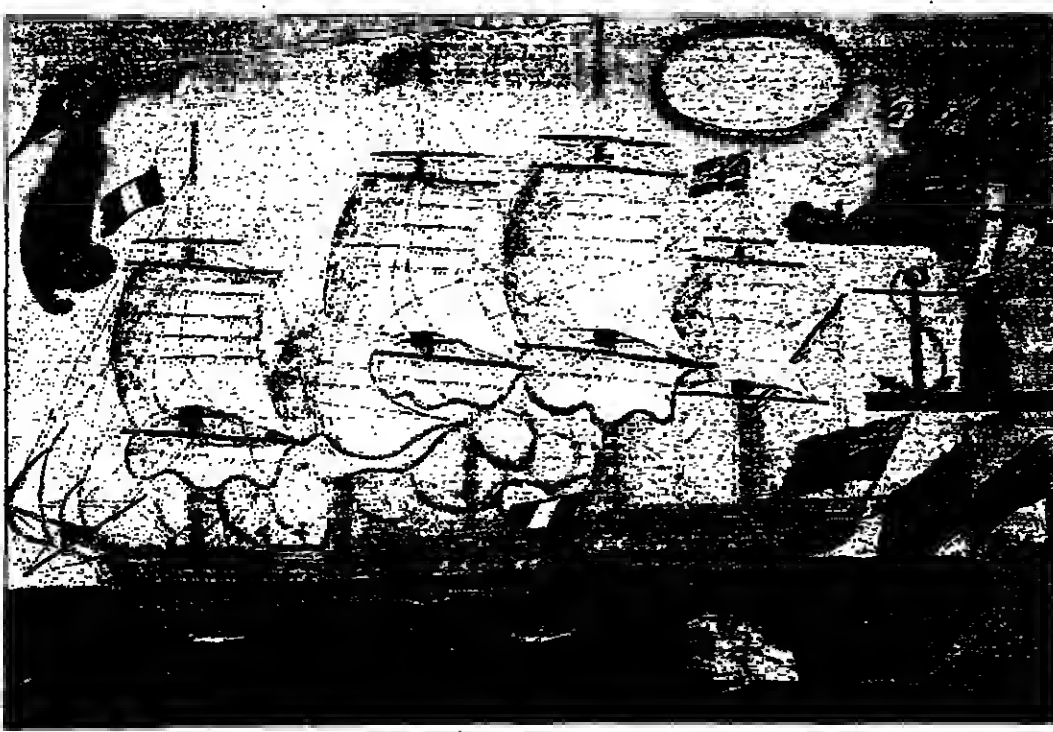
● **GERTRUDE HERMES** The last, indeed only major retrospective of the prints and sculptures of Gertrude Hermes was in 1967, and, despite the considerable growth of interest in 20th century women artists, especially since her death in 1983, she has received surprisingly little attention. This exhibition covers the whole range of her work 1924-1970. Redfern 20 Cork Street, W1 071-734-1732 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until Feb 11.

● **THE ALLIANCE OF SCULPTURE AND ARCHITECTURE** An exhibition documenting in detail the collaboration between the architect John Belcher and the sculptor Hanne Thornicroft, who was responsible for the giant frieze of 13 high-relief panels in Portland stone which formed an integral part of the overall design of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in the City of London. RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, W1 071-580 5533 Mon-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm, Jan 14-Feb 20.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Looming threat of the loss of innocence

Alison Beckett reports on how a unique assembly of English naive art is in danger of being broken up and lost to this country forever



The indefatigable artist unknown, circa 1800, is one of the items in the Kalman collection

England has only one museum of folk art, and soon it may have none. Its treasures are currently on show at the Crane Gallery, Knightsbridge, where they were transferred from their home in Bath in a final attempt to drum up support for their sale to the nation. But their owner, the London art dealer Andras Kalman, who was asking "well under" £1 million, has now taken the collection off the market.

Kalman says the reason is private and it is unclear if, or on what basis, his collection will be put back on sale. His original price tag a year ago was £1 million, and American collectors — who sometimes pay more than that for a single naive painting — are thought to be waiting eagerly to make a killing. Those trying to rescue the Museum of English Naive Art and keep the collection in Britain are led by Sir Peter Wakefield, former director of the National Art Collections Fund. But they now face major embarrassment, having received many private donations and pledges of help to buy the collection.

For the last six years the collection has been displayed in a restored 19th-century chapel-schoolhouse which Kalman, a Hungarian who came to England in 1939, had thrown in with his offer. Renowned for setting up his first gallery in a Manchester air raid shelter, he had begun buying primitive paintings, quilts, weather-vanes, decoys and other such artefacts in the Fifties.

On one occasion, he recalled: "People considered I was totally mad when I paid £36 at Bonhams in 1959 for a picture of a rat catching a dog. The work even had a hole in it. But such things can

now go for a thousand times more." At first he relegated these curiosities to his children's room, while the Lowrys and Ben Nicholson were in the sitting-room.

But then a group of American curators, studying the relationship between English and American folk art, hailed his collection as unique. It went on a five-year tour

of the United States and Scandinavia. Kalman was sufficiently encouraged to found his own museum, funding it himself.

A year ago, however, he declared he wanted to sell it. Apparently, he was disillusioned by Bath City Council's refusal to allow more adequate signposting to his premises. "Naive art has enormous

prestige in America. Families like Dupont, Rockefeller and Ford collect and support it," he explained. "But I am not a Rockefeller."

American and English folk art are, of course, strongly linked — thanks to the early settlers who continued to practise their skills as they adapted to their new environment. Consequently, American col-

lectors, having long since fallen for their own pictures of fat sheep and jolly farmers, are now looking to the English roots of this art form; and Sotheby's are ready to ship the 112-piece collection to New York and sell it off piecemeal for considerably more than £1 million.

Both the Bath Preservation Trust, of which the Prince of Wales is patron, and the York Archaeological Trust are interested in acquiring the collection; although the National Heritage Memorial Fund (which also has the Prince of Wales as its patron) turned down Kalman's original offer.

Since last summer Wakefield, who launched the Trust in Support of the Collection of English Naive Art, has been seeking backing. He points out: "We are so toffee-nosed in Britain about aristocratic art, it took a Hungarian to say that English naive art is worth preserving."

Yet the connections between "high" and "low" art are there waiting to be discovered, as John Jeffcott, the trust secretary, explains. "Look at the early work of Gainsborough and Devis, for instance. There is a wooden quality which suggests a naivety that, with the latter, never really receded."

"Unfortunately, because of our huge heritage, naive art has always been under-valued in this country. People have thrown it away. Or it has fallen apart because it has been kept in damp farmhouses and badly ventilated taverns. This collection is the best of its kind in the world."

● *Crane Gallery, 171A Sloane Street, London, SW1 071-235 2464, until Feb 4. The Trust in Support of the Collection of English Naive Art can be contacted via John Jeffcott (0453-756560).*

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CONCERTS: Stephen Pettitt has doubts about a series bringing together new music and new performers

Off to a false start

Yes, it is wonderful that young musicians are given this opportunity to step out into the public arena each year. Yes, it is marvellous that they should be encouraged to play the music of their own time. But wait. The biographies of the participants in the Park Lane Group's annual jamboree sometimes reveal unexpected experience.

Simon Parkin, for instance, who played the piano on Wednesday night in partnership with the cellist Hannah Roberts, already lectures at the Royal Northern College. Roberts has a date fixed to give the Elgar Cello Concerto in the Albert Hall with the English Chamber Orchestra, while the clarinet player heard the previous evening, Robert Piane, now sits in the Northern Sinfonia's principal's chair.

The Italian guitarist Emanuele Segre has also already been everywhere, done everything. He gave the expected accomplished and

highly coloured performances of Elliott Carter's *Changes* (1983), Franco Donatoni's *Algo* (1978) and Nicholas Maw's *The Music of Memory* (1989) — inexplicably short of three of its variations. But he has little need of this launching pad. The series needs lower limits of age and experience.

More careful attention in arranging coherent programmes would also help, though some attempt is made to unify proceedings by focusing particularly on a couple of composers — this year the honour fell to Nicholas Maw and Edward McGuire. There is, however, no compulsion for players to choose music by them. Often, one suspects, they play what they know of new or newish music, or what exists for their particular combination.

Apart from McGuire's microscopic *Three Dialogues*, Roberts and Parkin, an obviously mature partnership, opted for the sweeping romanticism of Samuel Barber's Cello Sonata and Parkin's own Second Cello Sonata, whose first public performance this was. Parkin writes fluently and with clear formal ideas, but his idiom is nothing more than pleasant.

The pianist Sasa Stefanovic, born in the former Yugoslavia and currently studying in Paris, is the kind of emergent artist with which the PLG should be most concerned. He followed a disconcertingly difficult performance of Stephen Oliver's technically and musically complex *Study* (1979) with a novelty: his compatriot Vasilje Mokranjac's *Odjeci* (1973). The

title means "echoes", and the music ranges expressively wide, revealing a delicacy and power in Mokranjac's playing which bode well for a bright future.

Contrast him with a slightly older pianist, Yael Hersonsky. In Elena Firsova's poetic *Elegy*, Op 21 (1979), Maw's *Personae IV and V* (1985) and Ligeti's first book of *Etudes* (1985) she played well enough, extracting some subtle sounds in a notoriously difficult hall. But this was not a personality that hit you between the eyes.

The Zanzibar Trio of clarinet, violin and piano made a good opening shot with Poul Ruders's typically craggy, rhythmically convulsive *Vox in Rama*, and followed it with Andrew Schulz's *Strick Dance III*, a work containing

plenty of mysterious tribal atmosphere. The eight movements of Thea Musgrave's *Pieter*, however, made but scant impact, despite all the fancy lighting. Musgrave's ideas seem over-diluted.

Piane, accompanied by the pianist Sophia Rahman, made his impression by emphasising the more trumpet-like qualities of the clarinet. Loudish, highish music seemed to predominate. Diana Burrell's *Bright Herald of the Morning* (1992) deals in stark, vivid textures and obsessive repetitions, while Philip Grange's Ernst-inspired *La Ville Enlure* uses the unremitting, unvariegated sounds of E flat clarinet in its over-extended inter-reactions between the two protagonists.

Paul Max Edlin's *And From the Tempest a Myriad of Stars* stood on surer ground. The touching eloquence in its tranquil second part was a relief indeed from all the foregoing frantic virtuosity.

Making-up in the rear-view mirror

David Toop previews a BBC 2 series showing how we looked as we rocked, rolled and partied in the Seventies

At the beginning of 1988, Seventies was a word so taboo, so terrible, that no civilised person dared mention it in fashionable company. In the offices of *The Face* magazine, five of us sat and planned an issue called "The Seventies: The Decade That Taste Forgot" — a response to rare sightings of snakeskin platform shoes and iridescent flared trousers in London's dance clubs.

The way to be unimpeachably hip at the end of the Eighties retro decade, with its classic clothes, classic haircuts and classic soul, was to disinter cultural artefacts that the world spurned. Only by embracing vulgarity, absurdity and excess (particularly if it could be found in a charity shop) could those brave souls who pioneered the Seventies revival, out-maneuvre the good-taste police.

In the heat of the moment, one bright spark at *The Face* meeting suggested that the magazine run early Seventies photographs of the assembled company, thus revealing the murky origins of our current hairstyles. Mercifully, this idea was shelved yet five years later, nobody is ashamed to discuss the Biba boots they once tottered upon, the mushroom and animal patches applied onto their loon pants or the David Cassidy albums on which they wrote their name.

Even BBC television, has jumped on the bandwagon with a follow-up to its very successful *Sounds of the Sixties* series. Much of the popular music of the last few years has been plundered from trends associated with the early Seventies: glitter pop, glam rock, heavy metal, soft soul, funk jazz, synthesizer rock, singer-songwriters, progressive rock and disco. As a ten-part wallow in bad fashion, hairy sideburns and stirring music, *Sounds of the Seventies* promises to be an invaluable resource for students of this previously reviled period.

Of course, decades are not simple blocks of time cut up for the convenience of journalists. Disco, for example, stretched from one end of the Seventies to the other, changing its sound, its look and its stars as

frequently as Diana Ross changes her frocks. Platform boots may occupy pride of place in Seventies mythology but in reality slungbacks (mostly for women) were more practical for boogie nights.

Tougher forms of music such as rap germinated in the Seventies, with its early practitioners wearing bell-bottoms and afros. Punk disrupted the party for a moment, progressive rock was forced to move to Germany and pub rock brought music back down to the bottom of a pint glass. Some of the megastars of the CD era — Bruce Springsteen, Simple Minds, Dire Straits — began their climb from the cramped stages of clubs, pubs and bars to sports stadiums, while David Bowie altered his

Now, nobody is ashamed to admit to loon pants or David Cassidy albums

hair, his philosophy and his retirement plans on a "daily basis". Nostalgics who view the fragmentation of Nineties rock with despair should look again at the dizzy madness of the Seventies. For every party animal dressed in a silver jumpsuit there was a hirsute hippy in dirty jeans and a waistcoat; for every introverted folk singer with a wooden guitar there was a man dressed in wizard's robes playing ten synthesizers at once. At the time such tribal divisions seemed normal. Now we study them at university and blame them for the collapse of civilised values.

Only by the assiduous viewing of archive material is the true complexity of popular culture revealed. Take the group Dr Feelgood, a market leader in rhythm 'n' blues. They are lodged in the memory as a quartet of tight-suited bar cases. But archive footage in the "progressive" programme of the series reveals one of them trousered in a pair of flares wide enough to conceal two crates of Guinness.

Professors of trends in mascara, cosmetic surgery, cross-dressing and side whiskers will also find provocative ques-

tions lurking within the series. Such as could that spruce young thing in the red flares and white platform shoes really be the same Michael Jackson? What manner of being were The Sensational Alex Harvey Band and what was the exact relationship of facial hair to neo-classical rock?

A certain amount of revisionism has been necessary to accommodate the Seventies. Every one of us saw the Sex Pistols at Chelsea College of Art, we all bought Marvin Gaye's *What's Going On* as soon as it was released and not a single person in the world ever preferred Yes to Abba. Most of us burnt our cheesecloth shirts and dogs on the last stroke of 1975 and as for Peter Dinklage, he was surely a figment of our imagination.

Even a Chinese politician could not fail to be impressed by such rewrites of history yet, like interviews with long silent victims of ideological terror, the real story has finally emerged. Where, for example, was it possible to see the queen of soul, Aretha Franklin? Not on the progressive programmes but as a guest on *The Cliff Richard Show*.

Unaware of the future goldmine of archive programming, the BBC was far from infallible in making sensible judgments about the programmes that viewers might want to watch in 20 years' time. Intellectuals who now regard Al Green as one of the greatest singers of the last two decades would have been too busy deciphering Bob Dylan lyrics to appreciate him when he was at the peak of his form. Somebody at Television Centre shared this lack of foresight, since an entire 1973 Al Green concert was wiped.

As for the sourpusses who claim that nobody will want to watch today's techno bands and novelty acts in the year 2013, ten weeks spent in the company of Alvin Stardust, Gary Glitter, Deep Purple, Cockney Rebel and The Bay City Rollers should bring them to their senses. In the nostalgia business, expect the impossible.

Sounds of the Seventies begins transmission tomorrow on BBC 2 at 7.15pm.



Like he's never been gone: Gary Glitter, looking much as he does today, pictured during his Seventies heyday

OPERA HOUSE DEVELOPMENT: Alison Roberts reports new twists in the long-running tale of Covent Garden's expansion and modernisation plans

The Royal Opera House development is at a crucial stage. Financial discussions now taking place will decide its future. Dogged by bank loans, a huge fall in the value of property upon which it was relying to bring in cash and by criticism from many sides, the development plans intended to bring the Covent Garden opera arena into the 21st century now appear in jeopardy.

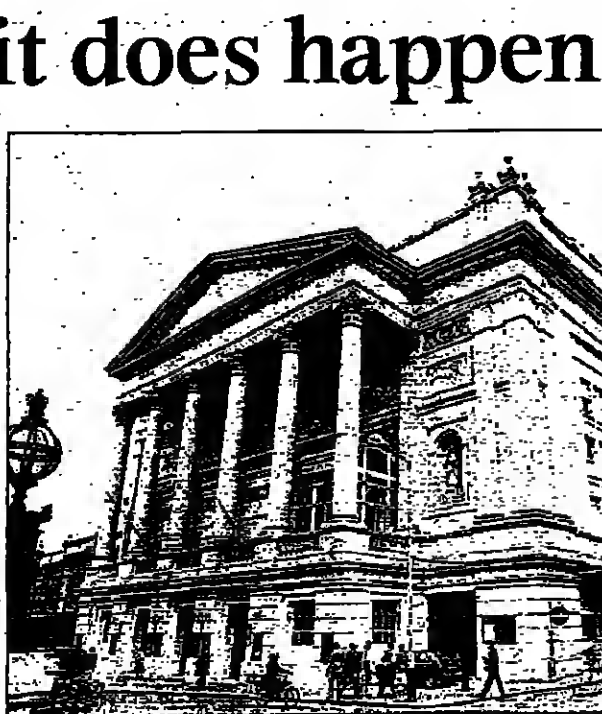
The development project, originally costed at £250 million, has been revised downward to £150 million, partly because building costs have fallen by as much as 15 per cent since the project was first mooted, but mainly because the scheme's accompanying commercial development has been considerably scaled down. The Royal Opera House hopes to raise £90 million, half through private sponsorship and half through public subsidy, with a further £60 million being generated by the commercial properties.

At the moment the development team is waiting to learn the outcome of financial talks between the Department of National Heritage, the Arts Council and the development trust's bankers. Westminster City Council will shortly decide whether to grant planning permission to a redevelopment

of the James Street corner. This part of the plan would bring the Royal Ballet on site on a day-to-day basis, by providing it with rehearsal studios, offices and changing rooms. Currently the company is based at the Royal Ballet School in west London.

The most worrying thing about the project as it stands is its indebtedness. According to last year's unpublished Warnock report, total development costs at September 1992 stood at £18.7 million, of which £14.4 million is financed by bank loans, and a further £2 million comes from a subordinated loan. An overdraft facility at a London bank is nearing £10 million.

The ROH Development Land Trust accounts show that "the bank overdraft is secured by a legal mortgage on certain parts of the development site". It is understood that the 3.1 acre site given to the opera house by the government in 1975, expressly for development, is held in security. If the development were to be halted for lack of money, the land, paid for by the nation, could be handed over to the bankers. The Warnock report, com-



The Royal Opera House redevelopment coming soon

missioned by the Arts Council, was dubious about the prospects for the opera house development. "The team believes the future of the development is in jeopardy," it said. "The team formed the opinion that the development, as currently financed, will not succeed, and its planning will be a

hindrance to the effective operation of the house over the next five years." The report concluded that the government must take back the donated land and pay for improvements to the house itself. Such improvements are desperately needed. The roof needs repairing and safety

standards are very low. In 1996, EC safety regulations will come into effect, requiring about £25 million spent on the house anyway, according to Dick Ensor, chief executive of the development project.

At the heart of the project lies the modernisation of the stage and its backstage facilities — largely unchanged since 1902. Bringing the ballet company on site and radically upgrading the dressing rooms, studios, storage and foyer space and ROH offices are other objectives, along with alterations front-of-house to improve sight-lines and seating. In order to fund the scheme independently, new office and residential buildings were to be developed as revenue earners.

But the property market crash has made such commercial development a far less lucrative option. According to Ensor, the value of office and shop space in Covent Garden has halved since the scheme's inception. His main worry is that the benefits to opera house accessibility — 130 extra seats in the auditorium and an extra 44 performances a year — will only materialise once

the development. They fear for the cityscape once the James Street conversion has taken place; they do not believe the scheme stands up financially or architecturally; and they do not want a number of buildings in the conservation area demolished. Meanwhile, the development team talks about contingency plans and what will be scrapped if the full scheme is not bailed out.

For its part, the Department of National Heritage says the ROH development trust will have to apply for lottery or proposed millennium fund money like everybody else, but as a capital project it might be a potential candidate.

Covent Garden residents and traders remain opposed to the development. They fear for the cityscape once the James Street conversion has taken place; they do not believe the scheme stands up financially or architecturally; and they do not want a number of buildings in the conservation area demolished. Meanwhile, the development team talks about contingency plans and what will be scrapped if the full scheme is not bailed out.

TELEVISION

Simply being beastly

Put sex in a title and you can add a nought on to the total number of interested punters. The Sexual Imperative (Channel 4) is a particularly good title, because it promises something vaguely alluring while giving absolutely nothing away.

What on earth is a sexual imperative? Perhaps an after-dinner mint, as in "Make some coffee, darling, and pass round the sexual imperatives." Or possibly a technical term for a salacious grammatical construction, such as: "Take off that vest and show me what a man you are." But there is no mention of it in Fowler's *Modern English Usage*.

All soon became plain. The *Sexual Imperative* must be what happens to the naughty bits that are censored out of wildlife programmes because kiddies may be watching. The intrepid film-makers who lie motionless for days on the Patagonian shore, waiting to capture raw footage of rump-pumpy among the sealions, clearly get upset when all the most intimate moments are left on the cutting-room floor. So the naughty bits are pasted together, given a whimsical commentary spoken by Hannah Gordon and one of those silly, pseudo-African soundtracks which only occur in nature films, and Channel 4 has a new series.

Last night's episode was all about monogamy and polygamy. Whether our furry friends incline towards one discipline or the other depends, it seems, on environment and opportunity. To illustrate this unstartling thesis, the footage poured in from five continents. Australian snakes entwined their dammy torsos and rolled over in the dust — and that was just the males. Trinidadian frogs did it on the hop. African male rams exercised strange sensory organs to pick up the aroma of females on heat. And how Goro Vidal might have envied these Dutch beetles! Here were his two famous dictums — "Never miss a chance to have sex or appear on television" — being put into effect simultaneously.

One marvelled at the film-makers' ingenuity. How do you track down a wasp's orgy? They don't advertise in the personal columns of *The Times*. Yet all this close-up footage did seem excessive. After all, Cole Porter managed to say the same thing in a few brilliant lines ("Birds do it, bees do it, even educated fleas do it"). He never felt the urge to film the earth moving for the giant dam. Nature films take themselves so seriously. When Noël Coward was asked by Laurence Olivier's daughter, Tamsin, then aged five, what two dogs were doing together, he replied: "The doggie in front has suddenly gone blind, and the other one has very kindly offered to push him all the way to St Dunstan's." A box of the finest sexual imperatives goes to the reader who can find a line as good as that in a wildlife film.

RICHARD MORRISON

World of Drawings and Watercolours

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11am - 8pm (7pm last two days)

Lectures: 21 Jan Watercolours for the Modest Collector; Anthony Lester 2.30pm
The Watercolour Reconsidered; Mary Jane Stevens in conjunction with
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Information and lecture tickets: 071 692 9933

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prevent
better
casualties

MOTURING

Prevention's better than casualty

Technology is being applied to cars to improve road safety, with developments which will soon be more than just science fiction, reports Vaughan Freeman

This will be the year of the airbag. The latest in-car safety device, which inflates in front of the driver or front-seat passenger on impact, is already common in America, and manufacturers in Europe are rushing to ensure that their latest models have driver-side bags fitted, at least as an optional extra.

Yet research released at last week's Detroit Motor Show suggests that, while airbags do have some benefit in reducing injuries in an accident, a motorist who is about to spend £500 or so on one might do better buying alternative safety equipment.

According to work carried out for General Motors, an airbag used without a seatbelt is only 21 per cent effective in preventing driver fatalities in an accident.

The General Motors researchers believe that a motorist is far more likely to enjoy safer driving behind the wheel of a car fitted with an anti-lock braking system (ABS). The GM data suggests that a driver who uses a seatbelt and an airbag raises his chance of surviving a potentially fatal accident to 47 per cent. Using a seatbelt alone is 42 per cent effective.

ABS, like airbags, can be fitted as an option in Britain for about £500. For every 100 possible accidents, ABS could be used on 99 occasions to avoid it in the first place. In the 1 per cent of incidents where ABS would not prevent a collision, seat belts would provide protection.

GM's manager of safety and crashworthiness, Mick Scherba, says: "We believe ABS is the single most significant advance in road safety for decades."

"It helps avoid the accident, enabling motorists to stop in a shorter distance and to maintain control of the vehicle."

In America, where ABS is widely available as standard on new cars, discounts of up to £200 are available on insurance premiums to motorists whose cars have it. This is because ABS is classified as an "active" safety device, which helps to avoid accidents, while seatbelts and airbags are considered "passive" devices to protect vehicle occupants after the accident.

Statistics suggest that a typical driver has an accident every five years and every ten years will suffer a smash that is serious enough to require reporting to the police or an insurance company.

Therefore, car dealers are unlikely to say any more of that motorists do not buy safety. Selling safety makes commercial sense, as well as preventing death and injury. Safety devices have all but replaced performance and environmental concerns in capturing the imagination of buyers.

This is why GM has worked on other active safety features, including an array of devices from radar to fighter plane-style head-up display units to help motorists.

Dr David Viano, of GM's biomedical science department, says: "Avoidance will far outweigh occupant protection in its potential for saving lives and reducing the costs

to society of non-fatal accidents." In America, some luxury models, such as the Pontiac Grand Prix and Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme, already use head-up displays. The system projects vital information in front of the driver's eyes, allowing the driver to check the figures, such as speed, without taking his eyes off the road to look at the dashboard.

With an even greater leap in technology, GM is working on an advanced all-round radar system for cars — the Near Obstacle Detection System (NODS) — which should be in production by the middle of this decade.

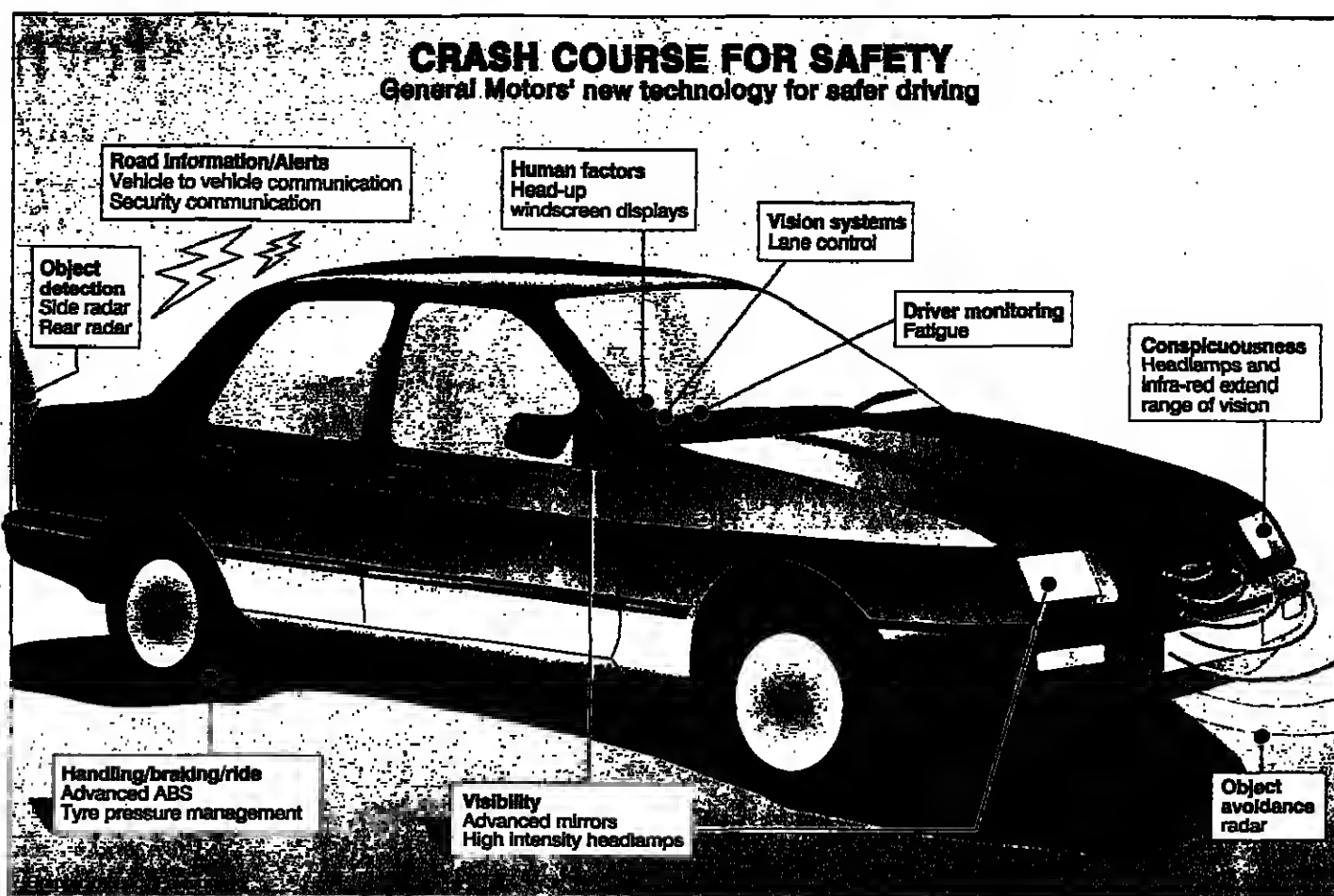
Using short-range radar, NODS eliminates blind spots within a 20ft range. Using sound alarms which beep at the driver, it can warn when the car may be about to hit something while parking, or when there is a car in his blind spot when pulling out to overtake.

The system incorporates long-range radar which detects vehicles further down the road and works with an electronic cruise control which keeps the car at a constant and safe distance from the vehicle in front. GM has the advantage of drawing on technology from its Hughes Aircraft subsidiary, and is also working on infra-red systems

used in tanks and armoured vehicles to enhance vision at night. This uses sensors to detect other road users, such as pedestrians, who cannot be seen through using headlights, by picking up changes in temperature. These images are projected on to a small screen on the dashboard.

It is important, says GM, to realise this is not science fiction. Dr Viano says: "We are working to refine this technology so that within a few years we can have cars that have substantially fewer crashes."

For all the technology, it is still the driver who makes the difference. A driver over 40, in a large family saloon, who does most of his driving on motorways and never



CRASH COURSE FOR SAFETY
General Motors' new technology for safer driving

Crash statistics: only 6 per cent of accidents are unavoidable

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For all the technology, it is still the driver who makes the difference. A driver over 40, in a large family saloon, who does most of his driving on motorways and never

drinks and drives, is a thousand times less likely to die in a road accident than an 18-year-old in his first small car who dismisses a seatbelt as an affront to his manhood, and who drinks before driving.

Attendance at advance driving courses would also cut road fatalities. An estimated 21 per cent of fatalities are caused by motorists driving aggressively and 45 per cent by motorists making a simple mistake.

Just 6 per cent of road accidents are unavoidable, it is estimated, caused by something like a car part failure or freak of fortune. Investigations in the UK by the Department of Transport's research laboratory, supported by American research, show that up to 30 per cent of accidents in the United Kingdom involve excessive speed.

A reduction of average speeds by less than 1 mph would result in 5 per cent fewer injury accidents and 7 per cent fewer fatal accidents.

So, for all that is being spent by motor manufacturers, motorists and governments to create safer cars in a safer driving environment, to a large extent, safer driving depends on the motorist simply easing off the accelerator.

harks back to the Porsche 550 Spyder and RS60.

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Staying put

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Happy new rises

THE new year has brought with it a rash of price rises. Audi prices have risen an average 4.5 per cent, making the entry level Audi 80 £14,740. VW prices have risen an average 4.9 per cent, while Mitsubishi prices have gone up by 3 per cent. The entry level Colt costs £3,850, the Mitsubishi 3000GT coupé, £35,000. Nissan prices are up 3 per cent and Kia up 6.5 per cent.

Grim plans

AS TOUGH as things were in the British market, there may be some grim satisfaction in knowing that the Japanese and German car markets had an even worse year.

A report from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders shows car sales in Japan down 7 per cent. The report says that in Germany sales are down 9 per cent and that many manufacturers, fearing further deterioration, plan to cut production.

Jeep arrives

POSSIBLY the most famous four-wheel drive name of all, the Jeep (below), has arrived in Britain. The first Jeeps from Chrysler are here after the company registered more than 5,000 serious enquiries at last year's Motor Show at Birmingham. The cars are competitively priced from £12,495 for the Jeep Wrangler range and from

Flop that led to a revolution

In 1965 Daihatsu introduced a car that changed the British way of driving

also slower off the mark, going from standstill to 50mph in a leisurely 21 seconds, and using more fuel than its rivals in getting there.

The lacklustre performance came from an 800cc four cylinder engine producing a modest 41 bhp. Unlike modern small cars, which have tended to follow the lead set by the Issigonis Mini with its transverse mounted engine and front-wheel drive, the Daihatsu had an engine mounted fore and aft and rear-wheel drive.

But the Japanese had a few lessons of their own to teach. At a time when even mirrors were an

optional extra, the car came complete with a radio, wing mirrors and foglamps as standard equipment, although directional indicators consisted of hard-to-spot orange lamps sited half-way along the roof.

The quality of finish was also high, and impressed *Autocar*, the motoring magazine, which in its first review of a Japanese car in the UK reported: "In the design of the suspension, engine, transmission and brakes the Daihatsu follows very closely much that was popular and conventional on British cars some eight to ten years ago."

"The Daihatsu does impress for

quality of workmanship. There are many who understandably attach a great importance to this and prefer a car that is well-made, even if outdated and of inferior design, to one which is technically superior but badly constructed."

The car failed to make much of an impression on the British motoring public and was soon withdrawn from sale. Car CGH 8B was one of the few Berlins sold, and seems to have vanished until it was offered back to Daihatsu in the mid-1980s. The car then languished beneath a tarpaulin at the firm's headquarters in Dover, as hardly anybody knew of its significance. A year ago it was rediscovered and the company decided the car should be restored, which took nine months.

Build quality praised in 1965

again became apparent while the car was being restored. Despite its age there was little rust, the doors shut solidly and the main body panels had suffered no distortion.

Peter Frazer, the spokesman for Daihatsu UK, says: "We hope the Beaulieu collection will be able to take the car, as we do feel it has a genuine place in the history of Britain's motoring industry." Mr Frazer estimates that the car's rarity and excellent condition have sent its value soaring by about 2,000 per cent. Although it is not for sale it is thought to be worth somewhere between £12,000 and £15,000 to a collector.

At the time of its review, *Autocar* forecast that despite its all-continental name the Compagno Berlina represented "the beginning of the long-awaited Japanese invasion of our motoring scene". History has proved the magazine right.

Ugly duckling, now a swan: the Daihatsu Compagno Berlina

The Daihatsu does impress for

The civil war in Yugoslavia has left Britain's Yugo dealers with no cars to sell

Turning cars into assault rifles

Spare a thought for the unluckiest band of car salesmen in Britain. After braving the recession for the past three years, they arrived at the revival in December, when the new car market increased by 37 per cent, only to discover that they had no new cars to sell.

Yugo dealers face an uncertain future because the factory which supplied their showrooms has switched to making guns for the civil war in the former Yugoslavia.

Executives at Zastava (GB), the British importer, have been forced to pay off almost the entire staff of 100 people at their headquarters office at Reading, Berkshire. They have also been scouring Europe for spare parts to keep an estimated 60,000 British Yugo owners on the road.

Life is no easier in the showrooms. Having hung on gamely throughout the recession, salesmen

at the 160 dealers are relying on second-hand sales and servicing to keep afloat, although others have started selling rival makes of car.

The Yugo factory, once one of the country's industrial showpieces, became the target of a United Nations trade embargo in the summer. Based in Kragujevac, deep in Serbian territory, the factory found its lucrative export markets cut off while its home market has collapsed.

Factory executives gave up the fight at Christmas and shut down the car assembly lines, laying off more than 30,000 of the plant's 49,000 workers. Now the factory is

dedicated to producing AK-47 assault rifles and large calibre revolvers for the frontline.

Michael Lee, the managing director of Zastava (GB), said: "We are trying to hang on until the war is over and the factory goes back to work normally... but normality looks a long way off at this moment."

"It is a shame for dealers and their employees who have worked so hard to survive the recession and the hard times this year. But the war has continued to escalate until supplies of cars were finally cut off."

European car importers have made an unhappy start to the year, judging by the experience of Yugo

and importers of Skoda. Skoda, now jointly owned by Volkswagen, has terminated its long-standing contract with Skoda (Great Britain), an independent company which has been importing the cars.

The Czech factory intends to set up its own dealer network, following a similar decision by Volkswagen to buy out the Lough-owned VAG Group.

Skoda is optimistic that it has a bright future in Britain, in contrast to Yugo, whose sales peaked at 10,000 a year but fell back to fewer than 2,000 last year.

Yugo's biggest export market was the United States. However, Yugo America, the importer, folded last April. Ironically, one of the Yugo America board members was Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, and a leading player in the peace negotiations.

KEVIN EASON



Humming along: the Hummer is likely to cost more than £40,000

Desert Storm to the high street

The vehicle that made its name in the sands of Kuwait is going on sale in Britain

Over-sized, over-stated and now, the American military's Hummer four-wheel-drive off-roader, is soon to be over here.

The Hummer, which carried American troops during the Desert Storm conflict and which is now to be seen in Somalia, has previously been used solely for military purposes. But AM (American Motors) General, its manufacturer, is keen for it to find a place in the civilian market.

The Hummer looks as big and clumsy as its US Army classification, a high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle, would suggest. Its nickname, Hummer or Humvee, is based on the initials of the classification.

After the end of the Cold War, the peace dividend has seen AM General's outlets reduced, which is why it is turning to the civilian market for the Hummer.

The civilian version has more comforts than the military one, such as stereo, and comes in four models, including a canvas-top machine able to seat four passengers and offer a large load area.

The Hummer sales brochure reads: "Hill climber, family carrier, problem solver. The Hummer moves across the land more like a sure-footed animal than a machine." Ignoring the hyperbole, the

Hummer does have prodigious performance. It has a ground clearance of 16in, power steering and brakes, and even when operated by military users has an estimated life of 12 years. In civilian use it should last much longer. The whole underside of the vehicle is protected by rigid steel.

Power comes from a 6.2-litre V8 diesel engine, giving 150bhp at 3,600rpm. It weighs three tonnes, can carry two tonnes and tow 9,000lb. All of which restricts it to a top speed of 65mph and a 0-to-60 time of in 20 seconds.

Impressive gadgetry includes a tyre inflation system which allows the driver to lower

tyre pressure on the move and without leaving the cab, giving better off-road grip. A second push of the button re-inflates the tyres, again on the move.

The Hummer stands 6ft tall but still looks squashed flat, because it is almost 8ft wide. Ordinarily, that would make parking a problem but as the American motoring magazine *Car and Driver* reports: "This is an outrageous truck with amazing traction and it can park anywhere it darn well pleases."

Though no price has been set for the United Kingdom, it is likely to cost more than £40,000.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN

ROADWISE

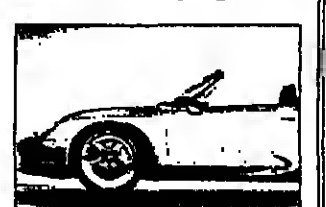
More for your money

□ MOTORISTS travelling abroad will receive increased compensation under the AA's Five Star emergency help package.

Motorists can claim up to £60 if pre-booked ferry or motor rail services are delayed; up to £75 per person (against £60 in 1992) for emergency food and accommodation if a tent is damaged; and up to £100 storage costs (£75 last year) for drivers whose broken-down cars have to await repatriation to the United Kingdom. Five Star costs £54 for 15 days of Vehicle Plus cover.

Back to the future

□ IN SEEKING the inspiration for its next generation of sports cars, Porsche has turned to its designs of the 1950s. The Boxster (below), is a mid-engined open cockpit two-seater that mixes the latest technology — such as in-car navigation aids using a mini-television screen — with "retro" styling which



harks back to the Porsche 550 Spyder and RS60.

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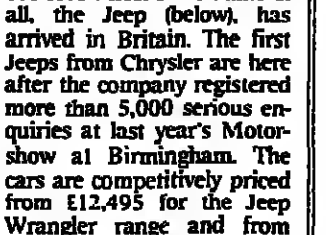
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Jeep arrives

POSSIBLY the most famous four-wheel drive name of all, the Jeep (below), has arrived in Britain. The first Jeeps from Chrysler are here after the company registered more than 5,000 serious enquiries at last year's Motor Show at Birmingham. The cars are competitively priced from £12,495 for the Jeep Wrangler range and from



£15,345 for the larger better-equipped Cherokee. The Cherokee is the first American volume car to be built in right-hand drive form specifically for the British market.

Viva Volvo

A SIGH of relief will rustle through suburbia with the news that Volvo has a new estate car. The Volvo 850 will be unveiled at next month's Amsterdam Motor Show and will come with 2.0 or 2.5 litre engines when on sale in Britain from May.

V.F.

England tour party's interests in India clash with those of television

Fletcher calls for greater effort

FROM PETER BALL IN DELHI

THE uncertainty over tour plans, which is beginning to affect the England team's performance in India, is partly down to the demands of television, whose requirements have caused the impasse over rearranging the first one-day international, which could not be played in Ahmedabad because of sectarian troubles.

TWI, the Mark McCormack television company, and Sky television both rejected proposals for the rearranged match to be played in Delhi tomorrow, as England had requested.

Instead England have had to arrange a practice match today to ensure they had some cricket before Monday's one-day international in Jaipur.

The rights for six one-day internationals and the three Tests were sold by the Indian board to TWI for around £250,000. TWI is selling the English rights to Sky.

It is the first time the Indian board has received such a sum from television and it has insisted that any new date and venue for the first one-day international took into account television's wishes. The result is that television's requirements have been given priority over cricketing needs.

The contract specified the six venues to be used, and the television companies refused to agree a switch to Delhi, which had not been surveyed for television purposes. TWI and Sky insist that the game can be rearranged only at one of the six venues already named in the contract.

The board has proposed that the match should be played either in Madras or Calcutta, before the Tests there, the argument being that the television companies would have their equipment in place at those venues.

The Test dates would have to be altered to make room for such a game, however, and the England management has refused to countenance such a proposal, which it sees as another worrying instance of television's interests overruling sporting ones.

"In England we do not allow the media to dictate when cricket matches are played," Bob Bennett, the England tour manager, said yesterday. "Cricket decides when cricket will be played on cricketing grounds. We said either play the match in Delhi

on Saturday or play both the first two matches in Jaipur, but the first didn't suit television and for some reason the latter wasn't acceptable to the Indian board either.

"The third option will be to play the match at the end of the tour. But we have said categorically that we will not disrupt the Test match schedule."

"There have already been three changes of venue to the tour schedule because of the political situation in India and Keith Fletcher, the team manager, believes this was a factor in England's dismal performance on Wednesday in the one-day match against the Indian Board President's XI.

"I'm not using it as an excuse," Fletcher said, "but it has been an unsettling week, and it has played on the minds of the players. We were unsure where the next game would be, when and who against. Minds have not been focused."

"Now they've got to get their minds back on the cricket. But they should be professional enough when they are playing for England to put those things to one side."

Usually under Graham Gooch, England teams have done quite successfully. On Wednesday they failed and both Gooch and Fletcher were angry at a slipshod performance.

"Graham is a very proud man, but he wasn't proud on Wednesday," Fletcher said. "You can't put in 80 per cent and expect to win a match, especially a one-day match, where you have to concentrate all the time. A second-rate performance is not good enough. The general attitude on the field was not good enough."

The players, suitably chastened, were given the day off yesterday. "I don't believe in naughty boy nets, but I hope when they're walking round the Taj Mahal or sitting around the hotel that they will think hard," Fletcher said. "It's been a strange tour, it feels strange, no one feels it has started yet."

Ian Salisbury and Richard Blakey are expected to make their tour debuts in today's 50-overs match against Bishan Bedi's XI, along with the other players who did not take part on Wednesday. Phil Tufnell, Devon Malcolm, Paul Taylor and Michael Atherton.



Heights of optimism: Mark Lathwell, left, and his Somerset colleague, Andrew Caddick, who hope to make their mark on the forthcoming England A tour of Australia, pictured after the squad's final training session at Lillieshall yesterday

BY BRIAN SEEL

THE problems associated with Flat and National Hunt racing are not evident in the point-to-point world where a record number of meetings have been arranged for the 1993 season which starts tomorrow at Higham.

Additional to this year's fixture list are the recently formed hunt clubs of the South Midlands and the Harborough, which, together with the Windsor Forest Bloodhounds, bring the total to 205 in the 21 weeks until June 5.

Five huns, three of them in East Anglia, have taken advantage of the new Jockey Club regulation allowing meetings to be held in January. The other innovation is the Sunday date, April 25, for the Point-to-Point Owners' Association meeting at Ashorne.

In the pre-season betting for the leading rider, Alison Dare is a strong favourite to retain the women's title she has held five times in the last seven seasons.

The men's event is much more open with last year's runner-up, Julian Pritchard, vying for top spot with title holder, Robert Alner, and the



previous year's winner, Justin Farthing

Interest is, however, focused on Bernard Hefferman, who has backed himself to win more than half a million pounds, mainly at the remarkably generous odds of 50-1.

Last season, 45-year-old Hefferman rode his first winner and went on to clinch the leading owner-rider title with six successes. This year he has doubled the number of horses in his stable to 18, including Yahoo, runner-up to Desert Orchid in the 1989 Gold Cup.

The exciting new Times Rising Stars series accounts for nine of the 141 hunter chases scheduled but enthusiasts of this sport have to wait

another fortnight for their season to begin. Besides the Times races, which are confined to horses qualified to run in point-to-points, four other series link the two sports.

Land Rover continue for an eighth year with 28 open race qualifiers for their Towcester final on May 11 while BMW stage their final at Cheltenham's evening hunter chase fixture on May 5.

Newcomers to the scene, Champagne Taitinger, replace RMC for the ladies' series culminating at Huntingdon on May 13 while Russell, Baldwin and Bright sponsor an 11-race maiden series, which includes an Irish fixture at Ashford, and have a Chester final on April 13, the day prior to the Times final at Worcester.

Horses included in the 1992 list of area winners of the PPOA Young Horse Awards could well be evident at Worcester as all bar Tartan Tyrant, who has gone to Gordon Richards, are working towards hunter certificates.

Of these, Mr Murdoch, Radical Views and Diamond Fort are my pick for further honours but watch out for the six-year-old Hops And Pops who was so impressive when winning his only start.

Champion raring to go again

BY CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

WHEN Robert Alner became champion point-to-point rider for the first time last year, it was just reward for more than 30 years' involvement in the sport.

In the process of lifting the title with 31 winners from only 66 mounts, Alner became only the fifth rider to pass the 200-winner mark in point-to-points.

Reflecting on his achievement, the 49-year-old Dorset farmer said: "Winning the championship is something that just happened. I had a good season the previous year and last season we managed not to crack up any of the horses. Everything just fell into place."

"The horses were fit early and the ground was right. The championship is something I never dreamed of, but now I have achieved it, I'm very proud — it means a lot to me."

It was from hunting that Alner became involved in racing and he rode his first winner, Heart Of Oak at West Morden, in 1961. Now his passion for racing is shared by his wife, Sally, and daughters, Jennifer and Louise, who have all ridden winners.



Alner: strong team for the new season

Alner is relishing the start of the new season tomorrow and has a powerful string of horses to ride under the care of Harry Welford. These include Mr Murdoch, the winner of his five races last year, and Ocean Link, who also gained five victories.

David Elsworth, who uses Alner to ride the enigmatic Mighty Falcon, has a very high opinion of him. "He's an example to any professional or amateur rider," Elsworth said. "He has a very effective quiet style, without relying on the whip."

"I remember at Devon, a couple of years ago, he rode a tremendous race on his mare, Betty Hayes, to beat Peter Scudamore by a short head without going for the whip. Everyone thinks Lester Piggott has been around a long time, but Robert seems to have been riding forever."

Emburey may bowl flatter to deceive

Peter Ball believes that some of the England players are going to have to make rapid adjustments in technique to succeed in India

TWO weeks ago, England arrived in India believing that they held a distinct advantage in any comparison between the spin attacks of the sides. After three matches statistics tell a different story.

While the Indian spinners have taken 23 of the 30 England wickets to fall, John Emburey and Philip Tufnell have taken four wickets between them at a cost of 320 runs.

Emburey has been savaged for 12 times, nine of them hit by the opening batsman, Navot Sidhu.

"I've been Sidhu'd," Emburey admitted ruefully yesterday. "I'm not bowling badly. It's only one player doing it, and he's not hitting me for fours — he's either taking one step down the pitch and giving it everything. I think I might be to his liking."

"Every time I try to vary my pace and bowl a bit slower, the ball keeps disappearing over my right shoulder."

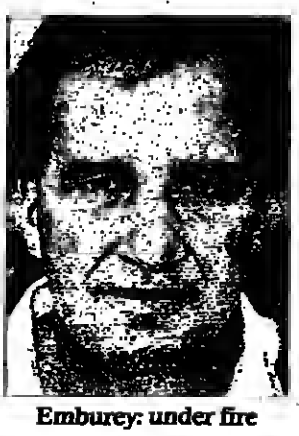
Emburey found support from his Middlesex captain, who had watched with sympathy as Sidhu battered his

colleague. "They are good-length balls that he's hitting," Mike Gatting said.

After years of pushing the ball through on a flat trajectory, Emburey felt that last season he had recovered something of his early loop and had benefited from giving the ball more air. He is now having to rethink after

"They bowl quicker and shorter than us, and from under the crease. I think I might have to bowl wider or go round the wicket to make them play more, because they use their pads a lot."

It is not Emburey's first experience of coming under heavy fire for in 1988 West Indies set out to hit him out of the England team. "I'd always bowled well against them, but Viv Richards got at me when he hit a very quick century in 1986. Desmond Haynes told me afterwards that when they came to England in 1988 they had the intention to keep wrecking me and get me out of the side. They succeeded too."



Emburey: under fire

watching the Indian spinners in action.

"I might have to revert to my old style and do what the Indians do — push it through a bit more and bowl a bit flat. I haven't seen them flight the ball too much," he said.

"They bowl quicker and shorter than us, and from under the crease. I think I might have to bowl wider or go round the wicket to make them play more, because they use their pads a lot."

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Australian build-up augurs well

Sydney: Australia enjoyed an encouraging warm-up for the World Series Cup finals against West Indies with another comfortable victory over Pakistan here yesterday.

The hosts cruised to a 23-run win to inflict a sixth successive one-day defeat on Pakistan in a match that had no bearing on the best-of-three match final, which begins here tomorrow.

Pakistan faced a stiff target after the home side batted first and thrashed 260 for eight off 50 overs. Steve Waugh topped for Australia with 64 from 65 balls.

A partnership of 84 between Javed Miandad, who scored 41, and Ramiz Raja, who made 67, gave Pakistan an outside chance of victory. But Greg Matthews and Allan Border took three wickets for three runs to end their hopes. (Agencies)

Score: Australia 260 for 8 (S R Waugh 64, M A Taylor 58, G O Bevan 53; Pakistan 207 for 8 (P Mavris 67).

Final table: P W L T Pts NRR
Australia 8 5 2 1 11 0.08
West Indies 8 5 3 0 10 0.78
Pakistan 8 1 6 1 3 -0.85

YACHTING

Rescuers kept busy

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

THE recession might be biting into London Boat Show sales, but if rescue figures published by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution are any guide, there is no shortage of people going sailing.

The RNLI's 280-strong active fleet of lifeboats were called out a record 4,993 times last year, 24 times more than in 1991. Lifeboatmen also rescued 1,345 people from drowning, another record.

A total of 200,000 yacht owners within the European Community face the prospect of paying VAT on vessels purchased up to eight years ago.

David Huxton is a partner in the marine accountancy firm of Moore Stephens, which has set up an informa-

tion service to help yachtsmen deal with the new rules which came into effect on January 1. His greatest concern is for owners of second-hand yachts who do not have the original VAT receipt and cannot prove that the tax was paid at the time of original purchase.

However, Customs and Excise have also foreseen this problem and opened a yacht team at their Dover offices to help track down the truth by searching through their own files, registration documents and details of manufacture. They can be contacted on the Customs yacht team hotline 0303 850601.

A third helpline has been set up by the British Marine Industry Federation. Their number is 0784 473377.

MR RICHARD Hargreaves, of Whitstable, Kent, and Mr John Bishop, of Clifton, Bristol, have each won a pair of tickets for all three of England's football World Cup qualifying matches at Wembley in 1993, the top prize in The Times Jumbo Sports Crossword. They were the first two correct entries selected.

Mr C. Baxandall, of Fareham, Hampshire, has won a pair of tickets for the five nations' championship rugby union international between England and Scotland, sponsored by Save & Prosper, at Twickenham, on March 6. His prize includes the sponsor's hospitality package.

Mr Pearce, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex, has won a pair of tickets for Coral Cup day, with the sponsor's hospitality package, at the Cheltenham National Hunt racing festival on March 17.

Mr S. Griggs, of Hornchurch, Essex, and Mr S. Denyer, of Hove, East Sussex, have each won a pair of trackside enclosure tickets for the European grand prix formula one race at Donington Park on Easter Sunday.

Six people have each won a copy of Fever Pitch, by Nick Hornby, which was the winner of the William Hill sports book of the year. Mr J. Hobbs, Guernsey; Mr D. Mellor, London; NW2; Mr G. Forrester, Jarrow; Tyne and Wear; Mr P. Court, Cardiff; Cambridge; Mr C. Summinghill, Berks; and Mr R. Cliff, London, SE9.

Six readers have each won a copy of Olympic Revolution, by David Miller. Mr A. Bickert, London, SW3; I. Myers, Epsom; Scotland; Mr A. Howard, Chesterfield; Mr G. Duns, Norwich; Mr F. Broome, Belfast; and Mr C. Batchelor, Wakefield.

All the winners have been notified by post.

Solution
ACROSS: 1, Badminton; 6, Andrew; 9, Steve Davis; 14, Cup holders; 15, Craw; 16, Catch; 17, Sled; 21, Colin; 22, Swivel; 23, Norfolk; 24, Opens; 25, Eight; 27, Hurdles; 29, Fifty off; 32, Ethiopian; 34, Spun; 35, Polite; 36, A grip; 38, Gut; 39, Duet; 40, Shot; 41, Seem; 42, Bunt; 44, Street; 45, Judo; 46, Oct; 48, Over; 49, Ski; 50, Imp; 54, Aisle; 58, Pro; 57, Epope; 58, Kase; 62, Anne; 63, Hobert; 65, Gold medal; 68, Ery; 69, Leach; 69, Thorpe; 70, Tyre; 72, Sunlit; 75, Redgrave; 76, Carver; 78, Gernie; 81, Neale; 82, Purness; 84, Tiple; 86; 87, Edge; 88, Snow; 89, Offer; 90, Inter Milan; 91, Looking side; 92, Clinch; 93, Rush photo.

DOWN: 1, Bicycle; 2, Dipping shot; 3, Iron; 4, Tidyway; 5, Norman Hunter; 7, Duran; 8, Edwards; 10, Track; 11, Victory parade; 12, Volley; 13, Side stepping; 18, Astor; 19, Cobblers; 20, Golf bag; 25, Strong arm; 26, Loughborough; 30, Loose; 32, Greenkeeper; 32, Engine; 33, India; 37, Stroke player; 43, Jump; 44, Sam; 45, Sledge; 47, Dugan; 50, Haradona; 51, Cambridge; 52, Free; 53, Sports grounds; 56, Alan; 60, Sally Gunnell; 61, Odds-on winner; 64, Top team; 67, Wheelset or Wheeler; 71, Bennett; 73, Powerlift; 74, Unlucky; 77, Metre; 78, Seconds; 80, Ranges; 82, Paced; 83, Stein; 86, Snop.

WORD WATCH

Answers from page 36

BASKERVILLE

(c) Eponym from the nomenclator John Baskerville (1706-75), type-founder and printer, applied to type of his founding re-cut: "The complete set of Romane, cut after the Baskerville models."

"The slight touch of over-elaboration which the Baskerville letter possessed."

MOUCHETTE

(a) Architectural jargon for a motif in curvilinear tracery having the shape of a curved dagger, from the French: "The mouchettes of the Court School are equally distinctive. They change only within certain fixed limits, and yet in a very subtle manner the mouchettes create changes of style." "The fan tracery of Henry VII's chapel is no more than an extremely elaborate combination of mouchettes."

POSTER

(b) An Afghan leather pelisse, generally of sheepskin with the fleece on, from the Persian *posh* leather *posh* skin, hide; Kipling: "William, wrapped in a posheen — silk-embroidered sheepskin jacket trimmed with rough astrakhan — looked out with moist eyes and nostrils that dilated joyously."

VANASPATI

(a) A vegetable ghee used in India, from the Sanskrit *vanas-pati* lord of the wood, forest tree: "On account of the shortage of butterfat in India, the consumption of hydrogenated oils, known locally as vanaspatis, has recently been greatly increased."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Solution: the white position moved in following 1... Nxc2! The main point is 2 Nxc2 Rxd3 3 Qxb3 Nxd2.

THE TIMES

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Y JANUARY 15 1993
ntest
Ice skating
Torvill and Dean to join leading amateurs
Opie joins list of absentees
Strike up planned
Life clash

BBC1

6.00 **Business Breakfast** (25134) 7.00 **Breakfast News** (6004955)
9.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Glick chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (P182757) 9.45 **Rose King**, Game show (P1824355)
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (P182221) 10.05 **Playdays**, For the very young (P1824355)
10.30 **Good Morning...** with Anne and Nick, Weekly magazine series (P1824355)
12.15 **Pebble Mill**, Jack Spillers is joined by pop group Sister Sledge (P1824355) 12.55 **Regional News** (P1824355)
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton, (P1824355) 1.30 **Neighbours**, (P1824355) 1.50 **Eldorado** (P1824355)
2.20 **First World**, World news hosted by Don Maclean (P1824355) 2.45 **The Flying Doctors**, Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (P1824355)
3.30 **Cartoon Double Bill** (P1824355) 3.45 **Junior Jungle** (P1824355) 3.55 **Quick Draw McGraw** (P1824355) 4.05 **Pass-the-story**, Improvised fun with Sylvester McCoy, Lynda Bellingham, Angela Bruce, Vicky Licorne, Richard Vane and Nick Wilson (P1824355) 4.15 **Rude Dog** and the Dweebies (P1824355)
4.30 **The Really Wild Show**
● **CHOICE**, Zos of the future is the theme of this week's show in the bright and breezy children's wildlife series. Plans are afoot to take London Zoo into the 21st century but exactly how is not made clear. "Lying up the aquarium", is apparently on the list, so, in the absence of further information, Michaela Strachan visits Boulogne's beautiful off-the-shelf aquarium, the 516 million Nautilus Centre. The programme continues in this optimistic vein: a hint of things to come at London Zoo, their quickly off elsewhere to see what's possible. There's an interesting look at a man-made rainforest in Holland and a trip to Glasgow Zoo where keepers entertain the bears by hiding their food. That 2005 are ultimately "a good thing" is demonstrated by the audio hearing conservation across stories. (P1824355)
4.55 **Newsworld**, Edna, Krishnan Guni-Murthy explores the "feminaria" phenomenon (P1824355) 5.05 **Grange Hill**, Children's drama series set in a comprehensive school. (P1824355)
5.35 **Neighbours** (P1824355) 6.00 **One O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Jill Dando. (P1824355)
6.30 **Regional News** (P1824355) 7.00 **Eldorado** (P1824355) 7.30 **Entertainment Express** presented by Salina Scott. With Paul McCartney, Lesley Henry and Jonathan King. (P1824355)
Northern Ireland: Sportszone



Fun and games for all the family: host Marti Caine (8.00pm)

8.00 **Your Best Shot**, Family game show introduced by Marti Caine. (P1824355)
8.50 **Points of View**, Anne Robinson with another collection of viewers' comments (P1824355)
9.00 **One O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. (P1824355) Regional news and weather (P1824355)
9.30 **Love Hurts**, Adam Faith and Zed Watanabe star in Laurence Mark's and Maurice Gren's romantic comedy/drama about a mismatched couple and their constant battles with each other. (P1824355)
10.20 **Terry Wogan's Friday Night**, This week's co-host is comedian Sandy Toksvig. Among their guests is the sex therapist Dr Ruth Westheimer (P1824355). Northern Ireland: Anderson on the Box. (P1824355)
11.00 **Film: Busting** (1973) starring Elliott Gould and Robert Blake. Black comedy drama about two maverick Los Angeles Vice squad policemen who seem to be constantly falling foul of their prey and their superiors, colleagues and the judiciary. Directed by Peter Hyams (P1824355). Northern Ireland: 11.10 **Entertainment Express** 11.40 **Terry Wogan** 12.20 **1.55 Film: When He's Not a Stranger** 12.30 **Crosby, Stills and Nash** — the Acoustic Concert. Their 21st anniversary concert recorded in San Francisco in 1981 (P1824355)
1.30 **Weather** (P1824355)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 3.30-3.50 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 3.50 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 4.00-4.15 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 4.15-4.30 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 4.30-4.45 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 4.45-5.00 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 5.00-5.15 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 5.15-5.30 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 5.30-5.45 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 5.45-6.00 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 6.00-6.15 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 6.15-6.30 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 6.30-6.45 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 6.45-7.00 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 7.00-7.15 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 7.15-7.30 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 7.30-7.45 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 7.45-8.00 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 8.00-8.15 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 8.15-8.30 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 8.30-8.45 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 8.45-9.00 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 9.00-9.15 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 9.15-9.30 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 9.30-9.45 The Young Doctors (P1824355) 9.45-10.00 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EMBUREY REFUSES
TO PANIC UNDER
HEAVY PUNISHMENT

SPORT

FRIDAY JANUARY 15 1993

ROB ANDREW
WEIGHS UP
ENGLAND'S CHANCES

Boxer becomes division's first British champion this century



Waste not, want not: Lewis yesterday holds aloft the WBC belt Bowe dumped into a rubbish bin and looks ahead to a lucrative series of defences

Lewis signs for four-bout deal worth £19 million

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time this century, a British boxer held aloft the belt for the world heavyweight championship last night. Lennox Lewis was handed the green and gold World Boxing Council belt by José Sulaimán, the president of the World Boxing Council, at a gala dinner in London.

Sulaimán said: "It is a great day for the WBC. We are very proud to have participated in an occasion to bring back to England the heavyweight championship that has been away for 100 years." The last Englishman to hold a heavyweight world championship was Bob Fitzsimmons in 1897.

Lewis said: "England has not had a heavyweight champion this century. I've done that. I feel really good. I feel like the world champion. I've beaten Razor Ruddock, the man everyone feared and ducked, and beaten Riddick Bowe (in the Seoul Olympic Games)."

Lewis, who was declared world champion a month ago

when Riddick Bowe was stripped of the WBC title for not defending against him, need no longer pinch himself, or punch himself for that matter, to know it's not all a dream. With the belt came all the trappings, pressures and responsibilities that go with being a world heavyweight champion.

HBO, the American cable company, has signed Lewis up for four contests, one of which will be screened as a pay-per-view show. Seth Abraham, the head of HBO, would not reveal the value of the deal, but it is thought to be in the region of £19.5 million. Abraham said that Lewis would earn "more than most of us would make in a lifetime. There's boxing and heavyweight boxing, two different sports and you have to pay accordingly."

The first defence will probably be against Tony Tucker, the No. 1 contender, on April 24 in London at Earl's Court or Loftus Road. Lewis had asked Sulaimán to allow him a voluntary defence before

meeting Tucker, but the matter has been deferred to the WBC executive committee. From Sulaimán's thinly veiled hints, it seems almost certain that the victory would go against Lewis.

"The WBC rules are clear," Sulaimán said. "The champion is committed to fight the highest challenger. But a champion's request must be put to the executive committee. We believe he is the authentic champion. Lennox is a gentleman in the ring and out of the ring. I'm sure he'll show he's a real champion of the world."

Lewis said: "It really makes no difference to me. The guy is going to be knocked out anyway. I'll fight anyone in the top ten. I'll fight Tucker. I want to defend to London."

Lewis reiterated that his goal was to become the undisputed champion, which would mean a unification bout with Bowe. According to Dan Duva, Lewis's American promoter, the Lewis-Bowe contest could break all records by grossing over \$80 million.

But neither he nor Abraham knew when the unification bout could take place. Abraham hoped that the cheque book might bring Bowe to the table.

"I think there should be one champion," Abraham said. "That's what the public wants. They are the jury, they pay the freight. The sooner it happens the better."

"HBO spent \$25 million to unify the heavyweight championship from 1986 to 1989," he said. "It's in our best business interests to have one world champion and the fastest way to reunify the title is to have Bowe and Lewis under contract."

Lewis wanted the undisputed title more than the money. "I don't look at the money aspect. I look at the goals aspect," Lewis said. "I've achieved all my goals. Now I want all three belts. I want to get it straightened out as soon as possible. I hope he doesn't get beaten before I get to him. I want to be the undisputed champion."

Moorhouse to attempt Channel swim

By JOHN GOODBODY

ADRIAN Moorhouse is planning to swim the English Channel this summer. The 1988 Olympic breaststroke champion, who retired from international competition after the 1992 Games in Barcelona, has already restarted light training and expects to begin regular swimming this month.

His attempt, which is likely to be in August or September, will be watched with fascination because it is rare for a top-class sprinter to attempt to begin long-distance sea swimming within a year of taking part in the Olympics.

Moorhouse said: "Trying to swim the Channel is the next thing along from the Games. The attempt means a lot to me. Completing it would be one of the greatest swimming achievements you can do."

Moorhouse, 28, insisted that he would get into long-

distance swimming properly. "I do not want to be all talk. I do not want to make a half-hearted attempt. For me it is a serious goal."

He intends to swim free-style throughout the crossing from England to France, which is 21 miles at its narrowest point. However, a swimmer often has much further to cover because of the currents. He said that he



Moorhouse: training

thought about doing breaststroke, used by Captain Matthew Webb in the first-ever crossing in 1875, for "about three seconds. I knew my knees would never take it."

Since Barcelona, when he reached the 100 metres breaststroke final for the third successive Games, he has been running twice a week, playing squash and having the occasional swim. He will run in the Nutrasweet London Marathon on April 18 — he has a best half-marathon time of one hour 27 minutes — and then begin training in open pools in May.

He has already had discussions with Alison Streeter, the only Briton and only female to have done a three-way Channel crossing, and is aware that the biggest problem he faces will be the cold water. It is usually only about 62° in the Channel in August and Moorhouse, who weighs just under 13½ stones, has had a fat level of only five per cent when in

intensive training. He may have to add some fat to ensure that he has sufficient reserves.

Long-distance swimming also demands a different kind of mentality and training than pool swimming. However, he believes he will be able to train most days and frequently twice a day while he continues his work as Youth Development Consultant for the Amateur Swimming Association.

He said: "I am not doing it for my own benefit. I am doing it so that the sport gets the benefit, and particularly people like Alison, who is so outstanding in an activity that does not get much attention."

Barry Prime, coach to Nick Gillingham, the European champion who came third in the 200 metres breaststroke at the Barcelona Olympic Games, is leaving Britain to take up the post of breaststroke coach at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

Angry Souness lays blame on players' greed

By IAN ROSS

GRAEME Souness, the embattled manager of Liverpool, yesterday reacted angrily to his side's inglorious exit from the FA Cup at the hands of Bolton Wanderers. "Too many of our players have no real interest or love of their football club," Souness said. "They are only interested in getting another move or another lump of money: that is totally unacceptable."

The holders' 2-0 defeat by the second-division club in a third-round replay at Anfield on Wednesday was Liverpool's most embarrassing Cup defeat since 1959, when they were beaten by the non-League side, Worcester City. Having already been eliminated from the Coca-Cola Cup and European Cup Winners' Cup, and with their Premier League title chances slim, only a place in the UEFA Cup now seems within their reach this season.

Souness also learned yesterday that he would be without Michael Thomas, his midfield player, for the rest of the season. Thomas will be out of action for six months with a ruptured Achilles tendon. He had only recently returned after a lengthy absence because of injury, and underwent surgery yesterday.

Souness conceded that he had made mistakes — "All managers do" — since he was appointed as successor to Kenny Dalglish in April 1991, but was highly critical of what he

saw as a change of attitudes since he retired as a player. "A successful football career used to be about winning things," he said. "Now it is about how much money you end up with at the end of the day. I want the people out on the pitch to be a part of Liverpool football club; people who want to die for the cause. I don't want people who just talk about it. People, even so-called stars, can say they are fully committed and passionate about this club, but talk is cheap and we have a lot of good talkers here."

Souness insisted, however, that he would not resign. "I thought, when I came here that it was just a case of getting a few players in and a few players out," he said. "It is a far bigger job than I realised, but I did not need Wednesday's result to tell me that. We do not have enough winners here and that is something I must change."

Although Souness does not appear to enjoy unanimous support at boardroom level, and there is a measure of concern about the wisdom of several of his recent signings, he still has more than three years of his contract to fulfil and is unlikely to be dismissed. Souness's belief in his own abilities is such that only the "improbable" relegation would prompt thoughts of resignation.

Anfield breached, page 34

Millwall may face FA enquiry into violence

MILLWALL may face an FA enquiry into the violence committed by a few of their supporters during and after the FA Cup third-round defeat at Southend (John Goodbody writes). In the worst incident of hooliganism inside an English football stadium this season, seven police officers were injured and 20 people arrested in and around Roots Hall on Wednesday night.

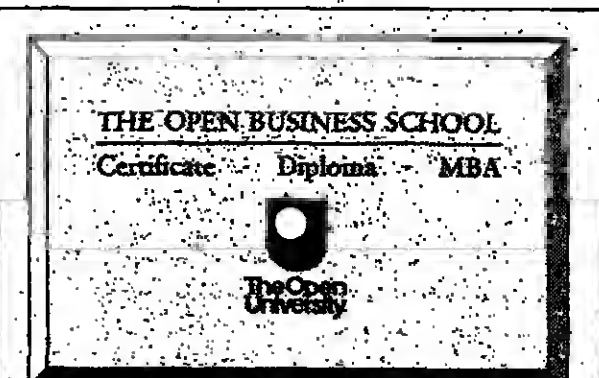
The FA will decide whether to investigate the incident when it receives the report of the referee, Ian Burrell. He will record that two of the 3,000 Millwall followers ran on to the pitch, although the game was not interrupted.

Two women police officers were punched in the face and some Millwall supporters broke windows in Southend on their way home.

Reg Burr, the Millwall chairman, condemned the "stupid and inexcusable actions" of a minority of supporters, but added that he felt the police created a "confrontational atmosphere".

Police in riot gear tackled the two supporters who ran on to the pitch while other officers said Millwall followers threw missiles at them.

Tension had been high with many of the visitors arriving at the ground to find people already occupying their seats.



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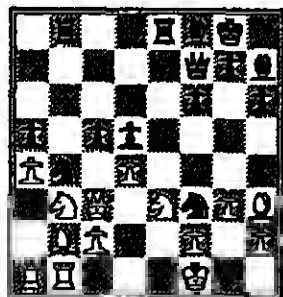
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By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Miles — Short, London 1982. How did Short, black to play, capture a vital pawn and go on to win the game? Nigel Short's Candidate's Final match against Jan Timman is currently in progress. The match is being played in El Escorial, near Madrid.

Solution on page 32



WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

BASKERVILLE
a. A large bloodhound
b. A dormitory suburb
c. A type of print

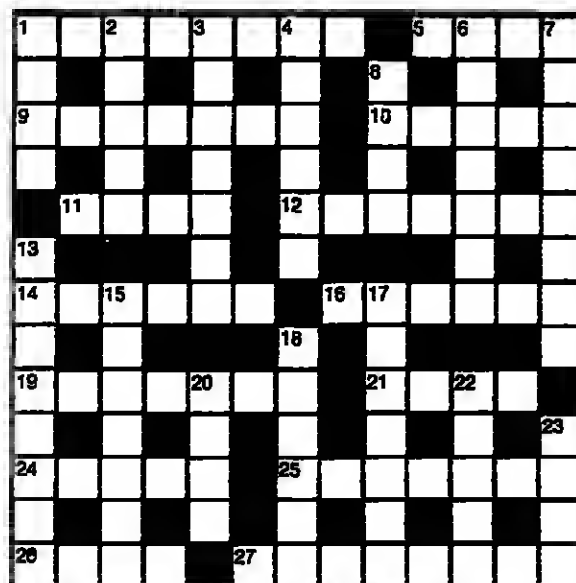
MOUCHETTE
a. Curved dagger pattern
b. A woman's lace handkerchief
c. A blue bottle

POSTEEN
a. Home-distilled Irish whiskey
b. A sheepskin jacket
c. The limit of a gateway

VANASPATHI
a. An evil spirit
b. A vegetable ghee
c. A Hindu sacred book

Answers on page 32

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2996



ACROSS

- 1 Fizzy drink (8)
- 3 Cattle group (4)
- 5 Mishandled (7)
- 9 School group (5)
- 10 Sparkling wine town (4)
- 12 Limit (7)
- 14 Naval "yes" (3,3)
- 16 Emphasise (6)
- 19 Biblical story (7)
- 21 Stretch torture (4)
- 24 Aqueous liquid (5)
- 25 Cock (7)
- 26 Play boisterously (4)
- 27 Offspring (8)

DOWN

- 1 Boost (4)
- 2 Ear area swelling (5)
- 3 Negate (7)
- 4 Substrate (6)
- 6 Slippery (7)
- 7 Distribute (8)
- 8 Scrutinise (4)
- 13 Working strength (8)
- 15 Printing mistake (7)
- 17 Commadon (7)
- 18 Fireplace front (6)
- 20 Tree skin (4)
- 22 Provide (5)
- 23 Smile (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2995

ACROSS: 1 Backlash 7 Skirt 8 Hypocrite 9 Lay 10 Maul 11 Tensed 13 Sleeps 14 Copper 19 Danger 20 Reef 21 Par 23 Confident 24 Thigh 25 Ill-fated

DOWN: 1 Bahamas 2 Capture 3 Luck 4 Slices 5 Wield 6 Privy 7 Session 12 Spinach 15 Present 16 Refuted 17 Kennel 18 Spire 19 Drain 22 Tiff

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